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BMV indefinitely postpones renewal of driver's licenses. **PAGE 5**

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# Saipan Tribune



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## OPERATION CHRISTMAS DROP

U.S. Air Force airmen assigned to the 734th Air Mobility Squadron, 44th Aerial Port Squadron and the 374th Airlift Wing unload humanitarian supplies from a U.S. Air Force C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron, deployed from Yokota Air Base, Japan, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam in preparation for Operation Christmas Drop. Over the course of 10 days, crews will airdrop donated food, supplies, educational materials, and tools to 55 islanders throughout the Southeastern Pacific, including the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

U.S. AIR FORCE/MSG RICHARD P. EBENSBERGER

More  
photos on  
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## AT A GLANCE

As of 7:11pm, Dec. 6, 2021

### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **89%**  
Fully Vaccinated: **89%**

Days since last community transmission **3**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	34,915
Fully Vaccinated:	31,874
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,046
Fully Vaccinated:	4,785
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,049

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	19,248	22	19,270
Recovered	18,702	0	18,702
Active	279	22	301
Deaths	266	0	266

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	1,104	0*	1,104
Traced via Travel Screening	267	0*	267
Traced via Community Screening	837	0*	837
Deaths	5	0	5

\*No update

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

# 14-day online PSS classes

» **BOE meeting today to discuss remote learning; PSS shares survey results**

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
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REPORTER

Beginning yesterday, Dec. 6, and until Dec. 23—comprising 14 days of class instruction—there will be no in-person classes for all

Public School System schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

In a decision the PSS leadership announced Monday night, it said all PSS schools will transition to and continue instruction through online learning through Blackboard Ultra during this period.

See PSS on Page 4

Japan's military, among world's strongest, looks to build

By MARI YAMAGUCHI  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**18 DAYS**  
BEFORE CHRISTMAS

ENIWA, Japan (AP)—Dozens of tanks and hundreds of soldiers fired explosives and machine guns in drills Monday on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, a main stronghold for a nation that is perhaps the world's least-known

military powerhouse.

Just across the sea from rival Russia, Japan opened up its humbly named Self Defense Force's firing exercises to the media in a display of public firepower that coincides with

See JAPAN on Page 4

## Star Marianas doubts CPA's sincerity

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

In the wake of the recent dispute between Star Marianas Air Inc. and the Commonwealth Ports Authority that

has put all interisland travel on hold indefinitely, Star Marianas says it doubts CPA's sincerity in resolving the current and any future disputes in good faith.

According to Star Marianas

president Shaun Christian, although Star Marianas desires to resolve any dispute between CPA informally and efficiently, it doubts CPA's sincerity in doing the same.

See STAR on Page 4



Christian

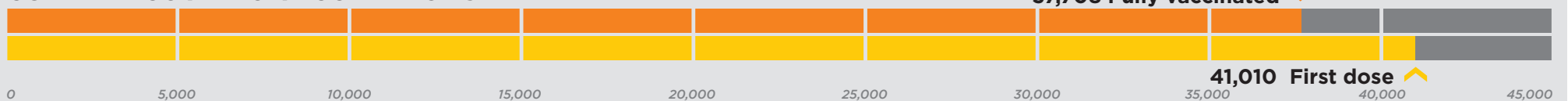
## COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

## CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



## INSIDE



### NATION

Bob Dole, who was a Republican presidential candidate, has died. He was 98.

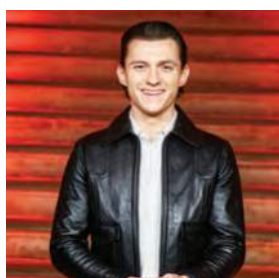
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### ASIA

A special court in Myanmar has sentenced Aung San Suu Kyi to four years in prison.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Tom Holland is trading in his Spidey suit for some tap shoes: He plans to play Fred Astaire.

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## Local

## NMC facilities remain open with continued flexibility for telework and online learning

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Despite some tightened restrictions due to increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the CNMI, Northern Marianas College facilities will remain open with continued flexibility for teleworking and online learning.

In a message to the NMC community last Sunday, NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said that some exceptions would also be made for “a few select face-to-face classroom exam sessions.”

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres ordered on Dec. 5 the closure of non-essential government offices and implementation of temporary restrictions for COVID-19 safety reasons from Dec. 6 to Dec. 19.

Deleon Guerrero said in his message that all college meetings should be conducted online during this period to comply with a requirement to not exceed 50% occupancy in classrooms, offices, and/or common areas.

Deleon Guerrero urged

those who will be on campus during this time to follow the college’s COVID-19 mitigation procedures and protocols. These include wearing a face covering, observing and maintaining social distancing, and washing/ sanitizing hands regularly. Deleon Guerrero added that NMC employees and students attending in-person classes “are also reminded to get vaccinated as recently mandated.”

Regarding telework and online learning, Deleon Guerrero said that supervisors are still allowed to authorize employees to telework and/ or instructors with in-person course components to continue with online learning through Dec. 18.

Deleon Guerrero made clear that employees/ instructors must secure supervisor approval before going through with telework/ online learning, and that students must wait on official approval from their instructors that they will continue with online learning.

Deleon Guerrero said that

NMC will continue with “routine cleaning activities throughout the next two weeks as necessary” and asked instructors and students to refrain from moving around classroom furniture as they have been strategically placed to ensure social distancing.

Deleon Guerrero said the situation is “dynamic and quickly evolving” and that the information shared may need to be updated quickly. He asked the NMC community to monitor official sources, which include the NMC email and website, NMC’s social media accounts, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For the latest updates, NMC’s website is [marianas.edu](http://marianas.edu), NMC’s Facebook and Instagram can be found @nmc.proa, and NMC’s Twitter can be found @GoProa. If you need any additional information, NMC students are advised to contact their advisors or instructors and NMC employees the Human Resources Office.

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## Former IPI chair Cui is cured of contempt

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Former Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chair Cui Li Jie has cured herself of contempt after Apple Inc. gave her access to her Apple iCloud account, as per a previous U.S. District Court for the NMI order directing her to preserve data on her cell phone.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said last week that Cui has purged her contempt to the extent of issuing the subpoena to the maker of iPhones and giving access to her Apple iCloud account.

Manglona ordered Cui to file a sworn statement identifying and explaining the existence of any and all electroni-

cally stored information or ESI backup accounts, whether it be iTunes or iCloud, including her QQ account, no later than Dec. 8.

Cui was also directed to address in the sworn statement the March 21, 2021, initialization of her phone and explain why Fely Forbes from IT&E saw her use a QQ email address.

Manglona said the plaintiffs can file a response no later than Dec. 15.

As to plaintiffs' motion for order to show cause, and third motion for attorney's fees, attorney Joey San Nicolas, who represents Cui, told the court that he will file an opposition to the order to show cause and motion for attorney's fees.

Manglona scheduled a status conference for Dec. 22, at 8:30am to further address Cui's compliance regarding the ESI backup.

According to Saipan Tribune archive, Manglona found Cui in contempt anew last month for failing to provide backups of her ESI and the correct login information

for her iCloud account. San Nicolas then issued a subpoena for Apple Inc. in an attempt to purge the former IPI chair of the contempt order in regards to her iCloud password. According to the subpoena, Apple was ordered to produce documents, information, or objects in the civil action no later than Nov. 30.

The plaintiffs, through attorney Aaron Halegua, have accused Cui of violating the contempt order previously issued by the court in the lawsuit of seven workers alleging labor abuses and human trafficking.

The plaintiffs in this case are Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai

Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yan. They are represented by Halegua and Bruce Berline.

Cui is a third-party witness in the lawsuit of the seven construction workers against IPI and its former contractor and subcontractor, MCC International and Gold Mantis Construction Decoration, both of which have already settled with the plaintiffs.

Manglona have already entered a \$5.4-million default judgment in favor of the plaintiffs against IPI but the judgment remains unsatisfied, and this is the reason why all ESI data held by the former IPI chair remain relevant to the proceedings.

## 'Many new positive cases were already in quarantine when ID'd'

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Many of the positive cases of late, such as the 103 cases the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. reported last Dec. 2, were individuals who have already been in quarantine at a government site because they have already been identified as high-risk "persons of interest."

This was emphasized by Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive Esther L. Muña during a radio ap-

## JGO cancels DPS chief's hearing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Deleon Guerrero's scheduled testimony today, Tuesday, before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee will not push through after the committee cancelled the hearing due to COVID-19 protocols.

JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said yesterday they are preparing the Legislature building for everyone's safety and that the preparation will take a few days.

Babauta said they are going to issue a press release soon about the new hearing schedule.

The JGO Committee is investigating Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

Deleon Guerrero's lawyer, Anthony Aguon, had separately confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that his client intends to appear and testify before the JGO.

The JGO served Deleon Guerrero with a subpoena last Thursday commanding him to testify before the committee today.

Aguon is the government-paid counsel for the commissioner in the JGO matter. He also represented other DPS personnel for their JGO testimonies, including Jomalyn Gelacio, Juana Leon Guerrero, Adrien Mendiola, Emery Kaipat, Kevin Aldan, and Flora Aguon.

pearance last Friday, where she also spoke of the importance of testing individuals within a certain time to get the most accurate testing results.

"The numbers that you're seeing from the last couple of days...those are individuals who are already in quarantine. They have been identified as a person of interest—these are individuals that are considered high-risk. ...At this point right now, we're finding individuals in quarantine. These are individuals that are staying in the hotel and waiting for their results," said Muña.

This explains why quarantining and isolating at a designated site is necessary as it prevents further spread even as high-risk "persons of interest" are waiting for their test results, she said.

Muña said that testing individuals for COVID-19 within a certain time frame is also crucial to ensure that CHCC receives and reports the most accurate test results.

"The tests have to be done

at a specific time in order to determine whether or not they have the virus. Doing it earlier can generate a false negative. Making sure that we have [testing] done in a specific time, and when it's done [and] determined that this individual is positive, that's more people protected from this virus," she said.

Muña acknowledged that isolating at a site may be inconvenient, but it is necessary to prevent further spread and protect the community, especially the many in the CNMI who are unvaccinated.

"I feel like this is necessary to protect others, especially considering that we still have a large number of individuals that are unvaccinated. I understand it's inconvenient, but it does save lives; it does [curb] further transmission out in the community," she said.

Muña appeared on the radio during Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' weekly news briefing. Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren F. Villagomez also appeared Friday.

## Manglona to chair Ethics Committee that will probe sex allegations against Propst

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) has been appointed to chair the Special Standing Committee on Official Conduct and Ethics that will look into the ethics complaint filed against Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan).

In a memorandum Friday, House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) appointed six other committee members: Reps. Sheila J. Babauta (D-Saipan), Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan), Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian), and Leila C. Staffler (D-Saipan).

### » 6 other members of Ethics Committee appointed

Villagomez said that, according to the official House rules, the committee "shall consist of seven members appointed by the speaker in consultation with the leadership." He said "each member shall make an affirmation, under oath, that he will perform his duties...and...will not disclose confidential information acquired by him as a result of his participation in the work of the committee."

Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae, who is a counselor and an advocate for the rights of abused women, filed the

ethics complaint against Propst last Nov. 9 over allegations that he had sex with several underaged women approximately 20 years ago when he was still a teacher at Marianas High School and an employee at the Northern Marianas College. Propst has denied the allegations.

Propst earlier described the complaint as a "distraction" instigated by the NMI Republican Party and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to take the public's attention away from the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee's investigation into the governor's expenditures of public funds and travels. Propst is a member of that committee.

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■ **Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** 9:00am - 4:00pm  
■ **Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** 9:00am - 4:00pm  
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# BMV indefinitely postpones renewal of driver's license

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles resumes regular operations today except for driver's license renewal, among other services.

Beginning today, the BMV will be open to the public from Monday to Friday. However, BMV services will only include vehicle registration and transfers, watercraft registration, and transfers. At this time, all driver's license renewals, driver exams, and drivers testing are postponed and will be rescheduled until a later date.

The BWV will only accept document drop-off for vehicle and/or watercraft registration renewal from 8am to 10. Then 2pm to 4pm will be dedicated document pick-up.

All individuals who are looking to

visit BMV and avail of its services are required to wear a face mask and maintain the standard 6-foot distance when lining up and around other individuals.

The department asks individuals to make payments at CNMI Treasury on Capital Hill, or Revenue and Tax

in Dan Dan before turning in documents, as the DPS cashiers window operated by the Office of Finance will be closed.

BMV will be accepting incoming documents and will be processing these documents for next-day pick-up.

## JAPAN

From Page 1

a recent escalation of Chinese and Russian military moves around Japanese territory.

The drills, which foreign journalists rarely have a chance to witness, will continue for nine days and include about 1,300 Ground Self Defense Force troops. On Monday, as hundreds of soldiers cheered from the sidelines and waved unit flags, lines of tanks shot at targets meant to represent enemy missiles or armored vehicles.

The exercises illuminate a fascinating, easy-to-miss point. Japan, despite an officially pacifist constitution written when memories of its World War II rampage were still fresh—and painful—boasts a military that puts all but a few nations to shame.

And, with a host of threats lurking in Northeast Asia, its hawkish leaders are eager for more.

It's not an easy sell. In a nation still reviled by many of its neighbors for its past military actions, and where domestic pacifism runs high, any military buildup is controversial.

Japan has focused on its defensive capabilities and carefully avoids using the word "military" for its troops. But as it looks to defend its territorial and military interests against an assertive China, North Korea and Russia, officials in Tokyo are pushing citizens to put aside widespread unease over a more robust role for the military and support increased defense spending.

As it is, tens of billions of dollars each year have built an arsenal of

nearly 1,000 warplanes and dozens of destroyers and submarines. Japan's forces rival those of Britain and France, and show no sign of slowing down in a pursuit of the best equipment and weapons money can buy.

Not everyone agrees with this buildup. Critics, both Japan's neighbors and at home, urge Tokyo to learn from its past and pull back from military expansion.

There's also domestic wariness over nuclear weapons. Japan, the only nation to have atomic bombs dropped on it in war, possesses no nuclear deterrent, unlike other top global militaries, and relies on the so-called U.S. nuclear umbrella.

Proponents of the new military muscle flexing, however, say the expansion is well-timed and crucial to the Japanese alliance with Washington.

China and Russia have stepped up military cooperation in recent years in an attempt to counter growing U.S.-led regional partnerships.

In October, a fleet of five warships each from China and Russia circled Japan as they traveled through the Pacific to the East China Sea. Last month, their warplanes flew together near Japan's airspace, causing Japanese fighter jets to scramble. In fiscal year 2020 through March, Japanese fighters scrambled more than 700 times—two-thirds against Chinese warplanes, with the remainder mostly against Russians—the Defense Ministry said.

Russia's military also recently deployed coastal defense missile systems, the Bastion, near disputed islands off the northern coast of Hokkaido.

Japan was disarmed after its WW II defeat. But a month after the Korean War began in 1950, U.S. occupation forces in Japan created a 75,000-member lightly armed de facto army called the National Police Reserve. The Self Defense Force, the country's current military, was founded in 1954.

Today, Japan is ranked fifth globally in overall military power after the United States, Russia, China and India, and its defense budget ranked sixth in the 2021 ranking of 140 countries by the Global Firepower rating site.

During archconservative former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's more than eight-year rule, which ended a year ago, Japan significantly expanded its military role and budget. Abe also watered down the war-renouncing Article 9 of the constitution in 2015, allowing Japan to come to the defense of the United States and other partner nations.

Japan has rapidly stepped up its military role in its alliance with Washington, and has made more purchases of costly American weapons and equipment, including fighter jets and missile interceptors.

"Japan faces different risks coming from multiple fronts," said defense expert Heigo Sato, a professor at the Institute of World Studies at Takushoku University in Tokyo.

Among those risks are North Korea's increased willingness to test high-powered missiles and other weapons, provocations by armed Chinese fishing boats and coast guard ships, and Russia's deployment of missiles and naval forces.

One of North Korea's missiles

flew over Hokkaido, landing in the Pacific in 2017. In September, another fell within the 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone off northwestern Japan.

Under a bilateral security pact, Japan hosts about 50,000 U.S. troops, mostly on the southern island of Okinawa, which, along with Japanese units in Hokkaido, are strategically crucial to the U.S. presence in the Pacific.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who took office in October, said during his first troop review that he would consider "all options," including possibly pursuing pre-emptive strike capabilities to further "increase Japan's defense power"—a divisive issue that opponents say violates the constitution.

## STAR

From Page 1

"...In view of recent events, such as the abrupt termination of the prior agreement between CPA and Star Marianas and the implementation of new rates and fees without prior consultation, Star Marianas has doubts about the sincerity of CPA's offer to conduct such negotiations in the near future and in good faith," Christian said.

One sticking point for Christian is that SMA believes that CPA did not follow policies and guidelines established by the Federal Aviation Administration as to how fees should be established.

"There are clearly defined policies and guidelines established by the FAA as to how fees should be established. In the opinion of Star Marianas management, such guidelines were not followed when the current CNMI regulations found at §40.10.1 were amended to establish the new fees. These issues are not new. Prior to the new methodology that CPA implemented, Star Marianas raised similar concerns as to the previous Airport Use Agreement. ...Protracted discussions and negotiations did not lead to a resolution, forcing Star Marianas to bring those disputes to the CNMI courts," he said.

In addition, Christian noted that Star Marianas requested that CPA delay the implementation of the new fees to give the parties an opportunity to discuss them and fully explore what their impact would be on Star Marianas's operations but was denied by CPA.

"This inalcitrant attitude then forced Star Marianas to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Transportation...due to the limited amount of time permitted for the implementation of the fee structure. In CPA's responses to the DOT complaint, there were admissions that certain errors exist in the newly

Japan has more than 900 warplanes, 48 destroyers, including eight Aegis missile-combating systems, and 20 submarines. That exceeds Britain, Germany and Italy. Japan is also buying 147 F-35s, including 42 F-35Bs, making it the largest user of American stealth fighters outside of the United States, where 353 are to be deployed.

Among Japan's biggest worries is China's increased naval activity, including an aircraft carrier that has been repeatedly spotted off Japan's southern coasts.

Japan has customarily maintained a defense budget cap at 1% of its GDP, though in recent years the country has faced calls from Washington to spend more.

amended CNMI regulations. Unfortunately, the DOT decided not to handle the matter because it determined that the dispute was not sufficiently significant for it to exercise jurisdiction but referred the matter to the FAA instead," he said.

Lastly, Christian said CPA previously refused to fully disclose its financial information despite repeated requests by Star Marianas as a condition of the Airport Use Agreement.

"It would seem axiomatic that any member of the taxpaying public should have the ability to view how a CNMI public entity is spending taxpayer funds, but even more pertinent where Star Marianas is trying to properly evaluate whether the rates and charges CPA is proposing are reasonable in relation to CPA's costs for providing the facilities and services utilized by Star Marianas," he said.

Christian said Star Marianas wants to resolve the dispute informally through a neutral third party.

"Star Marianas reiterates its desire to resolve any disputes with CPA informally but in an appropriate and structured format that involves a neutral third party. Therefore, in order to make meaningful progress there must be a commitment by both sides to engage in mediation within a definite time frame in the near future," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has promised to fully subsidize all fees and charges CPA will assess against SMA for the remainder of the fiscal year, provided that SMA agrees to reduce the cost of travel to the islands of Tinian and Rota.

However, Christian said that subsidizing fees is not the solution because the airline is capable of managing its own business affairs.

"If CPA is willing to engage in meaningful, structured discussions, then SMA is also willing to engage in such discussions and work toward restoring interisland air service," he said.

## PSS

From Page 1

"This decision has been carefully assessed by the PSS leadership and school administration," said acting Education commissioner Dr. Rizalina M. Liwag in a Dec. 5 letter to parents and PSS stakeholders.

This decision is in line with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' Dec. 5 directive that ordered the closure of non-essential government offices and put in place temporary restrictions for COVID-19 safety reasons effective Dec. 6 to Dec. 19.

Liwag wrote that PSS "continues its commitment to keep the public informed regarding the health and safety of students and staff" and that all PSS offices will remain open during this time. PSS Central Offices will remain open as well, with staff working on staggered schedules based on supervisor approval, Liwag added.

Liwag also advised parents to consult their children's schools directly

for remote learning schedules and that all PSS extracurricular activities and scheduled events are suspended until further notice.

Liwag assured that PSS is doing all it can to "provide a safe environment for our children to learn and grow", and will keep its stakeholders updated as circumstances change.

"We highly encourage you to take action to help limit the spread of COVID-19, even if your child is not experiencing symptoms. ...Rest assured that your child's and family's health is our priority," wrote Liwag.

For those who feel the need to reach out for help, Liwag encouraged emailing [mentalhealth@cnmipss.org](mailto:mentalhealth@cnmipss.org).

Today, Dec. 7, the CNMI Board of Education will be holding an emergency meeting via Google's teleconference platform Google Meet at 2:30pm. On the board's agenda, the lone item under "New Business" is "Remote Learning." The link to virtually attend is [meet.google.com/pye-xggq-ubv](https://meet.google.com/pye-xggq-ubv).

Separately, on Nov. 30, PSS pub-

lished the results of three surveys: a PSS students and families survey, a PSS parents and guardians survey, and a PSS teachers and staff survey. The Facebook posts sharing the survey results can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/cnmipss>.

Commonalities among these three surveys include calls for mandating COVID-19 screening for PSS students and staff; a need to provide data and information on safety measures, COVID-19 screening and vaccinations; and a need for safety measures for unvaccinated children.

In all three surveys, most of the respondents were fully vaccinated and reported that their mental health to an extent has been negatively affected during the pandemic. However, a majority of the respondents for the three respective surveys reported that they know how to access mental health help through PSS if/ when they need it.

*Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain comments from BOE chair Andrew L. Orsini yesterday but was unable to receive a response as of press time.



## IN SUPPORT OF TESTING PRIOR TO ENTERING ROTA

### Santos wants immediate transportation to Saipan if passenger tests positive

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

In the event a passenger tests positive with COVID-19 upon arriving on Rota, then he/she must be immediately transported back to Saipan to receive proper care, according to Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota).

The Rota senator made the suggestion in a letter to COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren F. Villagomez last Friday, where she expressed support for Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig's recommendation to immediately implement testing for all inbound passengers from Saipan and Tinian 24 to 72 hours prior to boarding any flights or vessels entering Rota. So far, Rota has zero COVID-19 cases.

"We cannot inundate the Rota Health Center because our people have only one place on island to seek immediate medical attention in the event of emergencies, patient appointments, and medical check-ups," the senator said.

Concerned over the increasing number of COVID-19 cases on Saipan, Atalig recently

recommended to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for the immediate implementation of a testing protocol for all Rota-bound passengers.

Atalig said this will prevent boarding of infected individuals who could infect the community of Rota.

Santos said that Saipan, unlike Rota, has the human resources, quarantine facilities, infrastructure, resources, and the seasoned expertise and experience necessary to handle what may arise.

"Now, more than ever, we must take a proactive approach to protect the health and welfare of the people of Rota," said Santos.

She said the Rota Health Center is not properly equipped, as it lacks the critical medical equipment and the absence of a full medical team, to handle any potential crisis.

For those individuals that are unable to be tested prior to departure, the senator suggested that passengers be screened upon arrival on Rota, which would be similar to the protocol previously implemented on Saipan.

## Russia sends missiles near Pacific islands claimed by Japan

**MOSCOW (AP)**—The Russian military has deployed coastal defense missile systems near the Kuril Islands, a Pacific chain also claimed by Japan. The move appeared intended to underline Moscow's firm stance in the dispute.

The Bastion systems were moved to Matua, a deserted volcanic island in the middle of the chain. Japan claims the

four southernmost islands.

Russia's Defense Ministry posted a video Thursday showing massive missile carriers moving ashore from amphibious landing vessels and driving along the coast of the volcanic island to take firing positions as part of drills.

The ministry said the deployment involved setting up living quarters for personnel, hangars for the vehicles and

other infrastructure.

The Bastion is capable of hitting sea targets at a range of up to 500 kilometers (270 nautical miles).

The deployment followed a series of moves by Russia to beef up its military presence on the Kuril Islands,

In 2016, it stationed the Bal and the Bastion coastal defense missile systems on two of the four southern-

most Kuril Islands. In the following years, it followed up by sending top-of-the-line air defense missiles systems there and setting up an air base on the Iturup Island where fighter jets were deployed.

Japan asserts territorial rights to the four southernmost islands of the Kuril chain and calls them Northern Territories.

## Karidat implements COVID mitigation measures

Karidat Social Services is implementing several steps to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community. These include closing its main office window, food pantry, and thrift shop for the next two weeks.

Karidat will also not be tak-

ing any clothing and household donations at this time.

The main office will continue to stay open to continue providing other services. For inquiries on other services being provided through phone or virtually, call the main office at 670-234-

5248 or 670-234-6981.

"As we tread through these uncertain times, we encourage everyone to practice the 3 W's [wash your hands; wear a face mask; watch your distance], and to extend patience, empathy, grace, and cooperation in

their daily lives and to everyone around us. We are hopeful that we can resume regular services soon. May the spirit of the holiday season guide us as we share our faith, hope, and *Karidat* [charity]," said Karidat in a news release yesterday. **(PR)**

## Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars on federal contracting this month. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **Dec. 9, 2021-Cybersecurity: Federal Contractor Re-**

**sponsibilities:** Department of Defense (DOD) vendors need to protect themselves from cyber attacks. We will discuss DOD's current requirements as well as the upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC), which has been re-designed and is now known as CMMC 2.0.

■ **Dec. 16, 2021-Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment-Department**

of Defense vendors use the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system to create, submit, and track their invoices. We will show you how to setup an account and submit an invoice so you get paid on time.

■ **Dec. 23, 2021-FAR Clauses Explained-Confused by all the FAR clauses referenced in government so-**

licitations? The Guam PTAC will demystify these Federal Acquisition Regulations. Join us as we explain many of the common FAR clauses found in Federal solicitations.

■ **Dec. 30, 2021-Government of Guam Procurement-** The Guam PTAC will explain Government of Guam Procurement, where to find opportunities, and how to submit bids.

Register on <http://guamp-tac.com/news-and-events.php>. **(PR)**



### NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp) | Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1 PUBLIC NOTICE

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) FEDERAL CROSS-CUTTING REQUIREMENT PRESENTATION ON SECTION 3, DAVIS BACON AND RELATED ACTS (DBRA), ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS, FAIR LABOR, FAIR HOUSING & NON-DISCRIMINATION, AND WOMEN AND MINORITY OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES..

12/02/2021

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is conducting a Federal Cross-Cutting presentation for all interested contractors planning to conduct business with the NMHC. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) encourages all HUD funded programs to comply with these requirements.

Section 3 is a provision of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. The purpose of Section 3 is to ensure employment and other economic opportunities generated by certain HUD financial assistance shall, to the greatest extent feasible, and consistent with existing Federal, State and local laws and regulations, be directed to low-and very low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to business concerns which provide economic opportunities to low-and very low-income person.

Davis Bacon and Related Acts: require the payment of prevailing wages to laborers and mechanics employed on the site of the work of certain federal or federally assisted contracts for construction, alteration, or repair.

An Environmental Review is the process of reviewing a project and its potential environmental impacts to determine whether it meets federal, state, and local environmental standards. The environmental review process is required for all HUD-assisted projects to ensure that the proposed project does not negatively impact the surrounding environment and that the property site itself will not have an adverse environmental or health effect on end users

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) is a federal law which establishes minimum wage, overtime pay eligibility, recordkeeping, and child labor standards affecting full-time and part-time workers in the private sector and in federal, state, and local governments.

The Fair Housing Act (FHA) is a federal statute that prohibits discrimination in the sale or rental of housing, as well as in residential real-estate related transactions such as advertising, mortgage lending, homeowner's insurance and zoning.

As a recipient of HUD financial assistance, NMHC CDBG-DR is required as the non-Federal entity to take necessary steps to ensure that all Subrecipients, Contractors, subcontractors, and/or developers funded in whole or in part with CDBG-DR financial assistance ensure that, when possible, contracts and other economic opportunities are directed to small and minority firms, women-owned business enterprises (WBEs), and labor surplus area firms.

**The Federal Cross-Cutting Requirement presentation is postponed till December 29, 2021, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom Teleconferencing. You may access the Zoom Teleconference link at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) Public Notice/Announcement tab or [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com).**

If you may have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447 or via email at [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net).

/s/  
Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

Tinian Field Office  
Tel: (670)433-9213  
Fax: (670)433-3690

**"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"**

Rota Field Office  
Tel: (670)532-9410  
Fax: (670)532-9441



### COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 | Fax: (670) 235-7147  
[www.developcnmi.com](http://www.developcnmi.com)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021

### CEDA CONTINUES OFFICES & SUPPORT FOR CEDA CLIENTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA), with the support of the CEDA Board of Directors, is committed to feasible strategies to continue the responsible re-boot of productivity and minimizing the risk of exposure and spread of the COVID-19 virus. We remain hopeful and committed to overcoming the coronavirus pandemic and its economic ramifications. In view of the Governor's Directive on closure of government offices from Monday, December 6, 2021 through Sunday, December 19, 2021, CEDA will close its offices to protect the safety and health of our clients, employees and the public. CEDA will continue to serve and assist via phone call, email and other means provided below:

**Saipan Office - First & Second floor, CDA Building Oleai - (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245**

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

- Executive Assistant Espie Borja at extension. 311  
Email at: [e.borja@developcnmi.com](mailto:e.borja@developcnmi.com)

#### ADMINISTRATION:

- Office Manager Christy Kintol at extension 310  
Email at [c.kintol@developcnmi.com](mailto:c.kintol@developcnmi.com)

#### ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT:

- Comptroller Donnie P. Militante at extension 301  
Email at [d.militante@developcnmi.com](mailto:d.militante@developcnmi.com)
- Financial Services Manager at extension 302  
Email at [e.benjamin@developcnmi.com](mailto:e.benjamin@developcnmi.com)

#### LOAN DEPARTMENT (SAIPAN):

- Loan Manager Marie Coleman at extension 307  
Email at [m.coleman@developcnmi.com](mailto:m.coleman@developcnmi.com)
- Available by appointment to meet virtually or curbside at the CEDA office.
- Borrowers may deposit direct payments at Bank of Guam (BOG). Please call or email to obtain the CEDA BOG checking account#. Please include the borrower's name or loan number, on the bank deposit slip, to ensure payment is credited to your loan. You may opt to email us a copy of the deposit (scanned or snapshot) or place it in the CEDA drop box, located outside the CEDA building on the 1st floor, right outside the office.
- For credit/debit card payments, call or email us at the contact info listed above.
- Borrowers may also use the payment drop box located outside the 1st floor or mail check payments to: CEDA, Attn: Loan department, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950

#### ROTA CEDA OFFICE:

- Borrowers/lessees may deposit direct payments thru Bank of Guam/CEDA checking account. CEDA preprinted deposit slips are available with BOG Rota tellers. Please include the borrower's name or loan number, on the bank deposit slip, to ensure payment is credited to your loan. You may opt to email us a copy of the deposit (scanned or snapshot).
- For all other assistance, please temporarily contact the CEDA Saipan Office or email

- Elaine Manglona at [e.manglona@developcnmi.com](mailto:e.manglona@developcnmi.com)

#### TINIAN CEDA OFFICE:

- Borrowers/lessees may deposit direct payments thru Bank of Guam/CEDA checking account. Please call or email the Saipan CEDA office to obtain the CEDA BOG checking account#. Please include the borrower's name or loan number, on the bank deposit slip, to ensure payment is credited to your loan. You may opt to email us a copy of the deposit (scanned or snapshot).
- For all other assistance, please temporarily contact the CEDA Saipan Office or email Thalia Hofschneider at [t.hofschneider@developcnmi.com](mailto:t.hofschneider@developcnmi.com)

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan  
Executive Director

/s/ Aubry M. Hocog  
Chairwoman, Board of Directors



## 70TH ANNUAL OPERATION CHRISTMAS DROP

## Guam volunteers pack donated goods into airdrop bundles



Volunteers pack donated goods into airdrop bundles in support of the 70th annual Operation Christmas Drop at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 4, 2021. Over the course of 10 days, crews will airdrop donated food, supplies, educational materials, and tools to 55 islanders throughout the South-Eastern Pacific, including the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. The international effort will allow Pacific Air Forces and partner nation Airmen to execute low-cost, low-altitude airdrop training, which will improve interoperability and communication for future real-world humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions.

U.S. AIR FORCE/MSG RICHARD P. EBENSBERGER



A U.S. Air Force C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron, deployed from Yokota Air Base, Japan, arrives at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam on Dec. 1, 2021, in preparation for Operation Christmas Drop. OCD is an annual U.S. Air Force tradition of packaging and delivering food, tools and clothing to more than 55 remote islands in the Southeastern Pacific, including the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

U.S. AIR FORCE/MSG RICHARD P. EBENSBERGER



# Extending the reach of Fordham's graduate religion education

By **TOM STOELKER**  
FORDHAM NEWS

*Editor's Note: Republished with permission.*

Over the course of the past 20 years, the Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education has partnered with the Catholic Extension Society's Young Adult Leadership Initiative to reach master's and doctoral candidates serving as leaders in hard-to-reach Catholic communities.

In the society's early days, it provided funds for priests to celebrate Mass from remote places, like the backs of rail and motor cars in isolated rural towns. Today, GRE helps the society reach far-flung parishes through technology, said Patrick Holt, Ph.D., assistant dean at GRE.

"These church leaders work in locations where they could not afford to leave their ministry to go and get the kind of schooling we offer," said Holt. "Most of the ministry schools are in Northeast, the Midwest or California, but the Catholic population is growing in the rural South and the borderlands of the Southwest.

As GRE has one of the most established online ministry programs in the country, they became a natural fit for the program's mission, he said. The two-year program also hosts students in person at the Rose Hill campus twice for two weeks over the summer. Once there, they stay in campus housing, share meals, and bridge their online learning with real-world fellowship, he said.

"It's here that they get to meet our faculty and create community and learn together outside of the classroom," he said. "They then take those connections back to the disparate places that they work."

Holt added the program has had great success, with many graduates going on to hold senior positions in dioceses and churches from as far away as

the Asia Pacific region. Some also come to the Catholic Extension Society program having already achieved great success, such as Ryan Jimenez, bishop of the mission diocese of Chalan Kanoa in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

## Learning in the Western Pacific

Bishop Jimenez is a doctoral student who immigrated to the U.S. to teach religion to high school students after several years of teaching in remote areas of the Philippines. He said that youth ministry remains close to his heart.

"Many of our youth are 'nones' and it's really important for me to meet them where they're at and think about where our young people are coming from," Bishop Jimenez said in a phone interview. "Gone are the days of the strict reward-and-punishment model of religious education that says, 'Do this; Do that.'"

Bishop Jimenez said that GRE professors working with the Catholic Extension Society have encouraged him to reflect and keep himself open to the realities his congregations face. He said that many in his mission are migrants to the U.S. who were born and bred as Catholics. But the unrooted circumstances of migration do not allow for regular access to the sacraments, forcing many to live outside of church doctrine.

"Many feel they cannot receive the sacraments and so they feel unwelcome," he said.

He said that while much of the Commonwealth is Catholic, not all worship or believe in the same manner. Part of the challenge is to connect with divergent constituencies.

"For the community I'm in, one challenge is accepting and welcoming LGBTQ people," he said. "How do we find the balance between accepting and non-judgment as Jesus would and address pastoral



Bishop Ryan Jimenez of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa takes part in the recent Chicago Marathon.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

issues even as I'm bound to follow rules? I can't change church structure."

Just shy of 50 years of age, Bishop Jimenez said that it has been 17 years since he was last in school. He said that he chose to go to Fordham to become a more effective leader.

"You can't give what you don't have," he said. "I need to update myself with recent studies and different approaches to the practice of service so that I can inspire others. I think Fordham keeps my mind changing, growing."

## Meeting Mexican American students where they are

Edgar Guzman became a master's candidate in the summer of 2019 thanks to the

program. He is the campus ministry director at St. Paul Catholic Newman Center in Fresno, California. He's the only youth minister in an office that serves four campuses. His thesis focuses on ministering to second-generation Mexican Americans who have grown up in the U.S., but don't necessarily feel as though they belong. Like Bishop Jimenez, Guzman is trying to meet the student population he serves where they're at.

"The young people that I administer to are the sons and daughters of farmworkers," said Guzman. "I try my best to relate to them as a Mexican American and as someone kind of living in two worlds."

Guzman cited a scene from the movie "Selena," where a

Mexican American father complains to his son and daughter.

"The father says, 'We're not Mexican enough for the Mexicans and we're not American enough for the Americans.' That is definitely true. That is definitely something we relate with," said Guzman.

But Guzman noted that being Mexican is far from being part of a monolithic identity. There's a great difference between regions, as well as different perspectives on gender roles, sexual identity, class, and age.

"I'm 33 years old and the majority of the students that I work with are about 10 years younger than me. So, there is definitely a generational gap," he said. "I don't have all the answers, but I have some sug-

gestions and some insights that maybe they do not have right now."

He said that in addition to practical theology, GRE has given him a sounding board of peers.

"Sometimes I feel very isolated and very alone just because there's no other Newman Center [Catholic ministries at secular universities] in the Diocese of Fresno. We're the only one and I'm the only campus minister that's full time," he said. "But with my classmates who work with other young adults or in campus ministry, I've definitely been able to peek behind the curtain, if you will, of other ministries and specifically on the East Coast. So that's been very helpful."

He added that the program has given him the vocabulary to express himself and tools for insight. He also noted that some of the classes he's taking were unexpected, like those on sociology and child behavior.

"That threw me off at first, because I said, 'What does this have to do with religious education?' When in reality, if I'm a minister, if I'm someone who's going to be pastoring to young people, I have to learn how to walk with them, with all their baggage, which we all have," he said. "So, the courses have taught me how to love in a more holistic way."

*The original article was published by Fordham News on Dec. 3, 2021: <https://news.fordham.edu/university-news/extending-the-reach-of-fordhams-graduate-religion-education/>*



Edgar Guzman with students in Fresno.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2021-042	CDBG-DR Receptionist (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 per annum	November 30, 2021	December 15, 2021 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net) and [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com).


Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Lallau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net).

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net). NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/  
**JESSE S. PALACIOS**  
Corporate Director



### COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp)  
Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>

## Public Notice

### 12/06/21

In observance of the Governor's memorandum on the closure of non-essential government offices for the next 14 days, The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) would like to inform the General Public that our agency will be closed effective today (December 06, 2021) and will resume operations on December 20, 2021. Our staff will be teleworking from home to address any inquiries.

For submission of documents, you may drop them off at the drop box located at the front of the building or you may send it via email at [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp).

For payments, you may drop them off at the drop box located at the front of the building.

Additional contact numbers in the event you are unable to get through our landlines: (670)483-9021, (670)989-1242, and (670)588-1003.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to prevent and minimize transmission of COVID-19.

**"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"**



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Omicron reminds us that now's the time for COVID vaccines and boosters

President Joe Biden got it right: The new coronavirus variant omicron is “a cause for concern, not a cause for panic.” The travel restrictions the U.S. and 70 other nations imposed will buy scientists time to further understand what risks omicron poses at this extended stage of the pandemic. For now, it's time to double down on what already works: Vaccinations, booster shots and wearing masks in crowded indoor settings.

Biden set the right tone at the White House on Monday, dismissing the need for widespread lockdowns and urging a defensive posture instead.

That's why it's essential to use the coming weeks to expand vaccinations, increase the number of boosters and to take sensible health precautions in public. It's understandable that Americans have COVID-19 fatigue. But these measures will all help slow the virus' spread, which is a first, essential step for returning to a sense of normalcy.

The administration was wise for taking a measured approach. While scientists are concerned that omicron could be more contagious than other variants, and the vaccines' effectiveness against it is unknown, those answers are not expected for weeks, and there's no immediate basis for locking down society or the economy. Many public health experts are confident that existing vaccines are up for the fight, and manufacturers have promised in a worst-case scenario that they could quickly produce a boutique vaccine. What's more, there's no shortage of vaccines available to eligible Americans, and no delays in the pipeline for administering shots. This is a moment for suiting up, not shutting down, and for reprising the sensible precautions we're familiar with now that the busy holiday season is here.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention underscored this messaging campaign by strengthening its recommendation for boosters to include all American adults. Though it previously approved boosters for all adults, the agency had urged them primarily for those 50 years and older. While 70% of the U.S. population has received at least one dose of vaccine, only 21% of those fully vaccinated had received a booster as of Tuesday.

The discovery in South Africa is another reminder that a global pandemic knows no borders. With vaccination rates across much of Africa still in the single digits, richer nations have a responsibility and a self-interest in making the vaccines more widely available. The U.S. has pledged to donate more than 1 billion doses for global use, and has donated 275 million doses so far. But these nations also need logistical help to store and administer the vaccines, and outreach efforts to overcome vaccine skeptics and those in hard-to-reach areas.

The government is doing its homework, and its resistance to overreact should build public confidence in any new steps ahead. But the most effective tools at our disposal are already here, free and readily available. Getting the vaccine and booster, wearing a mask in public and taking other sensible precautions are the surest way to a safer holiday season and a much brighter 2022.

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## Facility naming and art rendition on the sports complex on Saipan

By LIANA M.S. HOFSCHEIDER

Special to the Saipan Tribune

**Editor's Note:** The following is the text of a letter the author recently sent House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez and Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Northern Marianas Legislature in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

On Friday, Dec. 3, both the House of Representatives and the Senate convened for a joint presentation to receive communication by the officials and leaders of the Pacific Mini Games, which the NMI will be hosting in the summer of 2022.

Having said that, it is our mission to ensure that proper information is provided and shared with the nearly 2,000 visitors—athletes, coaches, support staff, families, and fans—who will be arriving in the Northern Mariana Islands beginning June 10, 2022, for the Pacific Mini Games.

Several years ago, former representative Ramon A. Tebuteb and governor Juan N. Babauta were successful in renaming the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the Francisco “Tun Ko” Palacios Baseball Field, and the Track-n-Field as the “Oleai Sports Complex” without any input from the families whose family namesake were dedicated to these respective facilities; or the Chamorros who are the natural owners of these lands, whose ancestors and their burial ground continue to host the sports complex today.

We are aware of, and the importance of, the historical accounts of the people of the Caroline Islands now referenced today as Micronesia—Satawal, Woleai, Lamotrek, Ulithi, Sonsorol, Tobi, Pulusuk, Polowat, etc.—that were brought to the NMI by colonizers of the Mariana Islands to prevent continued death from starvation, and some were used as workers. And some of the Carolinians also immigrated from their respective islands and atolls in the Carolines to survive the typhoon-ravaged islands and atolls 200-plus years ago. This is our islands' history, but it is not the only history of our native people, the Chamorros, and our ancestral islands, the Marianas.

In fact, the people from Caroline Islands of Namunouito, Chuuk were brought to Guahan and Tinian in the 1700s specifically as agriculture laborer by Sir Anderson and company, a European and Chamorro entrepreneur. Some of the laborers returned to Chuuk, and some were later resettled at i Sengsong Achugao and i Sengsong Tanapag in Saipan. But these traditional villages and ancestral Chamorro Island of Tinian were never

renamed “Namunouito village” or “Namunouito Island” to insult the indigenous people of Achugao and Tanapag villages and the native people of Maga’lahi Taga’s island on Tinian.

In fact, some of the descendants of the people from the Caroline Islands of Yap who were resettled by the U.S. military on Tinian immediately after World War II in 1947 had ancestral and cultural lineage to the main island of Yap. Yet these Chamorro-Yapese descendants did not rename their traditional village i Sengsong Makpo or the colonial reference San Jose village on Tinian to that of Yap or Yap’s villages of Gagil, Rumung, Gilman, Mapp, etc.

Additionally, a group of people from the island of Samoa were brought to the Northern Marianas during the German colonial occupation of the NMI and other Pacific Islands. These Samoans were later resettled in the traditional Chamorro villages of Achugao and Tanapag in the early 1900s. Yet, these traditional villages were never renamed Samoa, Pago Pago or Apia village to insult the native islanders.

Again, our leaders, elected and appointed, must understand that all these turn-of-events in the Northern Marianas were incidents of colonialism and at times tragic events for the Taotao Tano, the native Chamorros.

But to add insult and assault on the native people of the Northern Marianas is that huge artwork on the wall of the Gilbert Ada Gymnasium building depicting the Carolinian floral wreath that overshadows the Achu Latte (Latte Stone), a sacred symbol to all Chamorros around the world.

In fact, the floral wreath and the artwork word “Marianas” desecrated the Latte structure beyond existence and recognition. This artwork was used since last year as the beginning of the marketing art of the “Oleai Sports Complex” in preparation for the Pacific Mini Games. This artwork is out there in the worldwide web for everyone to see and witness how the CNMI government, the U.S. federal agency, and the leaders in the CNMI are treating the indigenous people by allowing this desecrated Achu Latte as a symbol welcoming the thousands of athletes and visitors to the Marianas, the ancestral home of the native Chamorros.

Additionally, this artwork on the gym faces one of the island’s busiest highways. It is fully funded in part by the CNMI government’s Arts Council under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and the U.S. federal government grants under the National Endowment for the Arts—that have allowed for this

See FACILITY on next page



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

# Omicron: Pandemic Poems

## Omicron Tis Of Thee

Omicron tis of thee  
causing us more misery  
of thee we flee  
from Alpha to Omega  
from Kappa Phi to Beta  
from Micronesia to META  
you do your thing  
around the world how many died  
in quarantine fear we hide  
from city to countryside  
in self isolation we hide  
of thee we flee  
you instigate vaccine doubt

wondering about your contagious route  
much about you we don't know about  
of thee we flee.

## OMG It's Omicron

(A new COVID 19 variant, 15th letter in the Greek alphabet)

Then there are those who point fingers  
in ignorance, who started it, who to name  
leaving many in doubt , suspicion lingers  
as science deniers play the blame game  
let's help the government and medical folks  
give thanks for the life saving work they do  
the COVID wheel of variants gets more spokes  
masks, social distancing make it safer for me and you

## LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



heading toward Xmas and New Year's holidays  
new COVID-19 virus variants keep coming on  
we learn community spread protection ways  
should remain in place till Covid 19 is gone  
the Greek alphabet may be used from start to finish  
then English letters until the virus may diminish.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## My response

On Nov. 30, 2021, my open letter to the members of the Democratic Party in the Commonwealth was published in *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety*. I wrote that letter so that members of the Democratic Party will be made aware of the kind of leadership, or the persons who control the Democratic Party's affairs, movement, and particularly, on what actually happened on Oct. 24, 2021 (Democratic Party Central Executive Committee's meeting with Lt. Gov. Palacios and Mayor Apatang). I hope in reading my letter that you are able to visualize and understand the factual event that took place on that day. I stand firmly on what I wrote because, it is the truth.

I write this letter not to glorify chairwoman Nola Hix—let her do that herself, she is good at it, believe me. And frankly, I felt it will be a waste of my time to respond to her letter, published in the *Saipan Tribune* last week, regarding my letter mentioned above. However, I decided to write this letter because I cannot allow Nola Hix to continue to harass me the way she did that day on Oct. 24, 2021, and be untruthful, as if it is okay and right for her to keep lying, again and again. Nola Hix's response to my said letter was her makeup story, exaggerated and with a lot of worms.

What she wrote are without facts and libelous. Yes, libelous! She cannot defend herself on what she wrote about me. ("He was cursing," "He was disruptive," "Had an outburst," "Disruptive was followed by the kind request for him to "please excuse himself"). Really? Forgive me, for I have no other choice but to say that Democratic Party chairwoman Nola Hix is untruthful and a liar. She continually lied and lied and lied. Why? What has she to gain by lying? Will it hurt to admit faults and to call me to meet, discuss and settle our disagreement and differences amicably? Of course not. This "child" has a lot to learn. The first thing she needs and must learn is "to be respectful."

Nola Hix forgets that she is of Refaluwasch descent. Showing and offering respect to others, particularly from a "child" to her "elders," is paramount in our Refaluwasch culture and tradition. Sadly, she has no respect at all. This child has lost touch, practice, and values of our Refaluwasch custom. Unfortunately, she has become westernized and yes, Nola Hix often smiles and looks beautiful but in reality, behind the mirror, she is an egoistic, rude, and disrespectful person. Nola's Refaluwasch families are nice, friendly, hospitable and respectful. They are my family too.

One day, the truth will come out and will prevail. As she

herself said and I agree, there were many people there at the meeting who I have known for years and respect. They are understanding, educated, and respectful individuals. I believe that they may have witnessed how the incident started or happened. Very unfortunate that the offer made on Oct. 24, 2021 by Lt. Gov. Palacios and Mayor Apatang to collaborate with the Democratic Party in carrying out and to fighting hard to win the expressed desire and hope of the many people in our Commonwealth—which is "putting an end to corruption, restoring transparency, accountability, integrity and to put our government back in the hands of our people"—was railroaded and killed by Democratic Party chairwoman Nola Hix, vice chairman Dan Quitugua, and the few members of Central Executive Committee without the knowledge or participation of the good members of the Democratic Party on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. What a lost opportunity for the Democratic Party.

Let me reiterate once again, I will remain committed and will never let anyone deter me from my belief, actions and for standing up for what is right that promotes the interests of our people first.

Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero  
Garapan, Saipan

## A couple of questions

I read with great interest the articles in today's newspapers about the governor's announcement to award "CNMI retirees" a \$500 "bonus" for Christmas and to provide "each Commonwealth Utilities Corp. residential account holder a \$500 voucher."

I have a couple of questions.

1. Who is a CNMI retiree? The governor probably means

those retirees receiving funds from the NMI Settlement Fund. But wait, he's using U.S. taxpayer dollars. I, like many others, am a U.S. taxpayer and a CNMI retiree, though I receive no funds from the Settlement Fund. Am I on the select list of "CNMI retirees"? I suspect that I am not but I also think a little clarity is in order.

2. What exactly, is the source of this funding? In one article the governor is reported as saying, "We put [these funds] aside and we worked on it [so that the] funds that we're using would not hamper any federal regulations." I noticed that in

the article he is not quoted as saying using the funds does not violate any federal regulation.

There are so many things that can't seem to get done in the CNMI because of funding issues or bureaucratic issues or political issues, but somehow the CNMI government can magically find \$9.8 million to distribute to voters 11 months before an election. Just saying.

John H. Davis  
Fina Sisu, Saipan

## FACILITY

From Page 8

cultural misappropriation against the natives to exist in this 21st century.

In fact, this same artwork (without the Latte stone) was so prominent that it was used by the NMI Democrat Party as the party's official art logo on all their billboards and signboards throughout the NMI for the 2020 mid-term election, despite our official protest against this insult and assault on our sacred symbol—Achu Latte. They refused to heed our protest.

To this end, we continue to advocate to right the wrongs of the past about, and of our people, and our islands. Therefore, we urgently ask the elected and appointed officials of our government to make it right for our people and our islands' history. It is the elected and appointed officials of our government that have done the wrongs on these issues in the last 45 years. Take note that the nearly 2,000 visitors who will be in the Northern Mariana Islands are all from indigenous communities.

The "Oleai Sports Complex" is not only about the people of Woleai Atoll, Caroline Islands because there are other Carolinians from the other Caroline Islands and atolls who were here at the same time the Woleaian arrived in the Marianas 200 years

ago. It is about the Chamorros whose thousand-year-old ancestors' remains that were disinterred and displaced from their natural burial ground to make way for the construction of the sports complex that is still there at their traditional village of i Sengsong Katan Uda and i Songsong Susupe; and now colonially referenced as San Jose and Susupe villages.

It is ironic that this year, 2021, marked the 500th year since the landing of the first contact between the Chamorros and the West on March 6, 1521. In fact, to commemorate the significance on the landing of the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan on our shores, the Spanish Navy training ship *Juan Sebastian De Elcano* arrived at Guahan's Apra Harbor on Feb. 26, 2021, and departed March 2, just days before the abrupt departure of Magellan from the Marianas 500 years ago.

The ship was received by Guahan's Maga'haga Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, and Commander Joint Region Marianas Rear Adm. John Menoni. The ship's namesake, Juan Sebastian De Elcano, was the Spanish explorer who completed the journey back to Spain after Magellan was killed in the Philippines. The *Elcano's* visit commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Magellan-Elcano circumnavigation and the 500th year since the beginning of colonialism of the indigenous people, i Taotao Tano, the Chamorros. We must know and under-

stand our history. We will not yield any longer.

On behalf of the Matua Council, we are asking that the sports complex be properly and promptly renamed Mariana Islands Sports Complex to reflect the islands, its people, and its history. More importantly, it represents all the islands in the NMI, its people, and all athletes from the Northern Marianas: aipan, Tinian, Luta and Gani.






Lastly, an artist must be commissioned to make the necessary correction to the Gilbert Ada gym's wall to ensure the Achu Latte, the sacred symbol of the Taotao Tano, is prominent to show and give respect to the ancient Chamorros whose remains continue to host the sports complex facilities. This is making it right and justice for the native people.

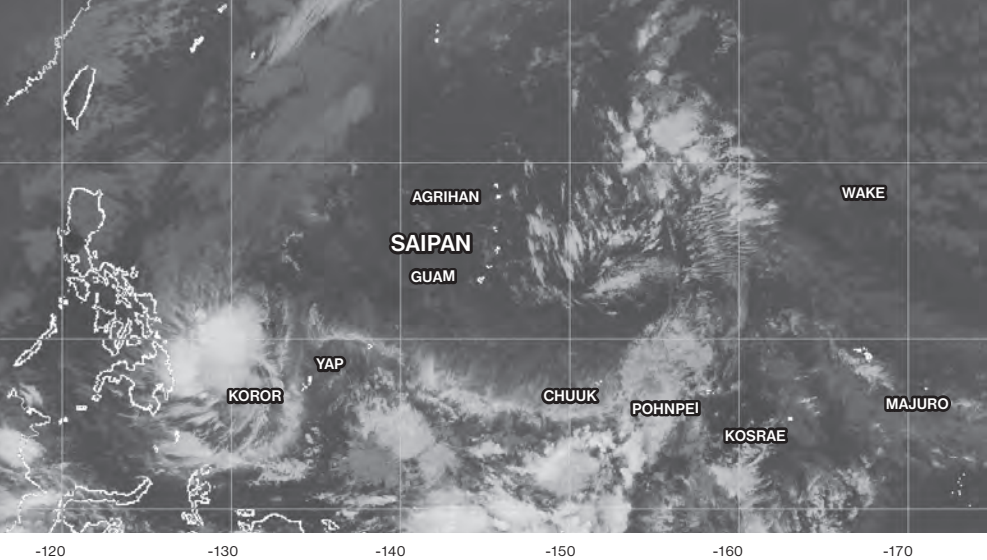
In closing, we trust that you will take this request with utmost urgency because it is less than 200 days before the arrival of the first batch of visitors to Saipan for the Pacific Mini Games. Let this be a successful story for the NMI—our athletes, our visiting athletes and their delegation, the leadership of the Pacific Mini Games, volunteers, supporters, the CNMI government, and everyone in the NMI who make and call these islands home.

Liana M.S. Hofschneider is president and CEO of Matua Council for Native Chamorro Advancement.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
85°	76°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:06 AM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough continues its slow westward motion through the Marianas and is causing a few showers in the area. An upper-level low near 16N151E continues to aid in the development of scattered thunderstorms well east of the Marianas, east of 150E. A 13Z altimetry pass showed seas of 10-13 feet over the Marianas with Ipan buoy supporting that notion with an impressive 10 ft, 17 second period northeast swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.


**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*



onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Thursday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:23 AM	8:52 PM	-
Wednesday	10:21 AM	9:55 PM	-
Thursday	11:12 AM	10:55 PM	-
Friday	11:57 AM	11:50 PM	-
Saturday	12:37 PM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	77° / 63°	
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 25°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 64°	
Honolulu	Windy	77° / 66°	
London	Cloudy	52° / 50°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75° / 47°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 55°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 74°	
New York	Rain	61° / 46°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	48° / 37°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 37°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	52° / 37°	
Rome	Sunny	55° / 34°	
Salem	Showers	74° / 44°	
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 45°	
Seoul	Showers	43° / 27°	
Tokyo	Sunny	52° / 36°	
Washington, DC	Rain	60° / 44°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:37 AM	Low Tide	-0.89	
10:58 AM	High Tide	1.86	
4:19 PM	Low Tide	1.19	
8:49 PM	High Tide	1.80	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6	UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7	UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184				UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6	7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4, 5	OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6	TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



# Business

## Survey: Business economists foresee persistent inflation

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's business economists have sharply raised their forecasts for inflation, predicting an extension of the price spikes that have resulted in large part from bottlenecked supply chains.

A survey released Monday by the National Association for Business Economics found that its panel of forecasters expects consumer prices to rise 6% this quarter compared

with a year ago. That marks an increase from the 5.1% inflation the forecasters predicted in September for the same 12-month period.

Eighty-seven percent of the panelists have identified supply chain bottlenecks as a major factor in the acceleration of prices.

Julie Coronado, vice president of the NABE, said that nearly three-fourths of the panel of 48 forecasters expects

the Fed's preferred inflation gauge, which reflects consumer spending patterns, to increase 4.9% this year—far above the central bank's 2% annual inflation target.

Nearly 60% of the NABE panelists expect the job market to reach full employment over the next year. Two-thirds of the panelists said they think wage gains will keep inflation elevated over the next three years.

On Friday, the government reported that the unemployment rate tumbled to 4.2% in November from 4.6% in October. The NABE panel expects the unemployment rate to keep declining to 3.8% by the end of 2022.

Last month, employers added just 210,000 jobs, the government estimated Friday. That was the weakest monthly gain in nearly a year and less than half of October's gain

of 546,000 jobs. The NABE panel, though, expects monthly gains in payroll jobs to average 337,000 next year, up about 5% from its projection in the September survey.

The forecasting panel expects the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, to expand by 5.5% this year. That would mark a robust bounce-back from the 3.4% drop in GDP last year, when the economy was

derailed by nationwide shutdowns caused by the eruption of the pandemic. Next year, the NABE forecasters expect GDP to grow by a still-solid 3.9%.

Addressing the snarled supply chains that have hobbled the economy this year, a majority of NABE panelists (58%) say they think the flow of goods will begin to normalize in the first half of 2022. Twenty-two percent say they think that process has already begun.



United Airlines announced Monday the inaugural class of 30 United Aviate Academy students will begin their studies on Dec. 6 at the new flight training academy at Phoenix Goodyear Airport.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### UNITED TAKES PILOT DEVELOPMENT TO GREATER HEIGHTS

## United Aviate Academy's first class to start on Dec. 6 at new training facility in Phoenix

CHICAGO—United Airlines announced Monday the inaugural class of 30 United Aviate Academy students will begin their studies on Dec. 6 at the new flight training academy at Phoenix Goodyear Airport.

The first class, 80% of whom are women or people of color, will complete a rigorous, yearlong training program that sets them up for a career that reflects United's high standard of professionalism and deep commitment to delivering a safe, caring, dependable and efficient travel experience.

United Aviate Academy received more than 7,500 applications from aspiring pilots around the country in less than six months, with nearly 75% of those applicants being women or people of color.

After completing their training at the academy, students will build flight and leadership experience while working within the Aviate pilot development ecosystem at partner universities, professional flight training organizations and United Express carriers on their way to be-

coming United pilots.

"We are thrilled to welcome our first class of students to the academy's new home at Phoenix Goodyear airport," said Mary Ann Schaffer, United's chief pilot and member of the United Aviate Academy board of directors. "The facility ensures we have the resources to expand our training capabilities and that the next generation of aviators will receive industry-leading training toward their goal of becoming a pilot for United Airlines."

Following the inaugural class, United Aviate Academy anticipates welcoming between 25 and 50 new students each month and expects to train at least 500 students yearly, with a goal for at least half of those being women or people of color. United currently expects to hire at least 10,000 pilots by 2030.

### United Aviate Academy at Phoenix Goodyear Airport

The state-of-the-art, 340,000 square-foot facility at Phoenix Goodyear Airport, which United Aviate Academy will

lease from the city of Phoenix, will provide aspiring pilots with industry-leading resources, equipment, and accommodations. The facility was previously home to Lufthansa Aviation Training, and United Aviate Academy will sublease part of its facility to LAT, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lufthansa, a United Star Alliance partner.

Other advantages the facility will offer to United Aviate Academy include:

- Leasing a fleet of late-model Cirrus SR-20 series single-engine aircraft, which feature advanced safety characteristics

- Nearly 50,000 square feet of office space

- Multiple aircraft hangars
- Dormitory rooms for student housing with ample room for expansion

- Proximity to many auxiliary airfields in the Phoenix area

- Favorable weather for year-round flight training

- For more information on United Aviate Academy, visit [unitedaviate.com](http://unitedaviate.com) or @unitedaviate on Instagram. (PR)

## OIA continues support for statistical analysis and GDP data collection for the US territories

### » Fiscal year 2021 funds support new and ongoing programs

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced \$1,846,121 in funding support through the Technical Assistance Program for the Bureau of Economic Analysis to collect gross domestic product data for the U.S. territories and to facilitate statistical data planning and improvements in Guam and American Samoa.

"The lack of parity in data collection continues to be an issue for the U.S. territories as their governments strive to make the most informed decisions for their residents," said deputy assistant secretary Keone Nakoa. "To help address

this systemic problem, these critical funds will support these communities as they work to develop more comprehensive data practices and capacity for analysis."

The following programs were funded through OIA's Technical Assistance Program in fiscal year 2021 to help support and strengthen data and statistical analysis in the territories:

- American Samoa Department of Commerce—\$300,000 to assist in the planning of a Statistical Enhancement Framework that supports a comprehensive approach for building the territory's statistical system.

- Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans—\$759,902 for assistance in developing a Guam 2050 Sustainability Plan that works to provide a comprehensive approach for achieving a vibrant economy.

- U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis—\$786,219 for an interagency agreement with BEA to produce and publish annual economic statistics, including Gross Domestic Product, for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. OIA has funded this program since 2011.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis issued the 2020 GDP for American Samoa on Nov. 30, 2021, and the 2020 GDP for Guam on Dec. 1, 2021. For all the latest GDP products on the U.S. territories collected by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, visit: <https://www.bea.gov/data/by-place-states-territories>.

For more about the Office of Insular Affairs, visit [www.doi.gov/oia](http://www.doi.gov/oia). (PR)

## Putin hopes WHO soon approves Russia's Sputnik V vaccine

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday voiced hope for a quick approval of the country's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine by the World Health Organization, saying the move is essential to expand its global supplies.

Speaking during a video call with Francesco Rocca, president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Putin said receiving the WHO's vetting is necessary to spread the Russian vaccine more broadly around the world, including

free supplies.

"We intend to expand such assistance," Putin said.

The Russian leader also argued that WHO's approval should open the door for Russians and others who have had the Sputnik V vaccine to travel more freely around the world. He said about 200 million people worldwide have received Sputnik V.

Putin was vaccinated with Sputnik V in the spring, and last month he received a



Putin

booster shot of Sputnik Light, the one-dose version. He also said he took an experimental nasal version of Sputnik V days after receiving his booster shot, adding that he was feeling fine and

felt no side effects. The Gamaleya Institute that developed Sputnik V has said the vaccine should be efficient against the omicron variant of COVID-19, but announced that it will immediately start working on adapting it to counter the new variant.

## India hosts Putin as it balances ties with Russia, US

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday to discuss defense and trade relations as India attempts to balance its ties with the United States.

The agenda for the annual summit includes political and defense issues, Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said. The two

countries are expected to sign several agreements, particularly in trade and defense.

India and Russia have a long history of close ties. But recently, India has drawn closer to the United States, which it considers critical to countering China. India and China have had a months-long military standoff along their disputed border in eastern Ladakh, where deadly

clashes erupted last year.

Russia, meanwhile, has expressed reservations over the formation of the Quad, a grouping involving the U.S., India, Japan and Australia formed in response to China's growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.

India is trying to navigate its defense relationship with Russia as it ramps up its military ties with the United States.



# Nation

## Senate leader, presidential candidate Bob Dole dies at 98

**TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)**—Bob Dole, who overcame disabling war wounds to become a sharp-tongued Senate leader from Kansas, a Republican presidential candidate and then a symbol and celebrant of his dwindling generation of World War II veterans, died Sunday. He was 98.

His wife, Elizabeth Dole, said in an announcement posted on social media that he died in his sleep.

Dole announced in February 2021 that he'd been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. During his 36-year career on Capitol Hill, Dole became one of the most influential legislators and party leaders in the Senate, combining a talent for compromise with a caustic wit, which he often turned on himself but didn't hesitate to turn on others, too.

He shaped tax policy, foreign policy, farm and nutrition programs and rights for the disabled, enshrining protections against discrimination in employment, education and

public services in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Today's accessible government offices and national parks, sidewalk ramps and the sign-language interpreters at official local events are just some of the more visible hallmarks of his legacy and that of the fellow lawmakers he rounded up for that sweeping civil rights legislation 30 years ago.



Dole

Dole devoted his later years to the cause of wounded veterans, their fallen comrades at Arlington National Cemetery and remembrance of the fading generation of World War II vets.

Thousands of old soldiers massed on the National Mall in 2004 for what Dole, speaking at the dedication of the World War II Memorial there, called "our final reunion." He'd been a driving force in its creation.

"Our ranks have dwindled," he said then. "Yet if we gather in the twilight it is brightened by the knowledge that we have kept faith with our comrades." Long gone from Kansas,

Dole made his life in the capital, at the center of power and then in its shadow upon his retirement, living all the while at the storied Watergate complex. When he left politics and joined a law firm staffed by prominent Democrats, he joked that he brought his dog to work so he would have another Republican to talk to.

He tried three times to be-

come president. The last was in 1996, when he won the Republican nomination only to see President Bill Clinton reelected. He sought his party's presidential nomination in 1980 and 1988 and was the 1976 GOP vice presidential candidate on the losing ticket with President Gerald Ford.

Through all of that he carried the mark of war. Charging

a German position in northern Italy in 1945, Dole was hit by a shell fragment that crushed two vertebrae and paralyzed his arms and legs. The young Army platoon leader spent three years recovering in a hospital and never regained use of his right hand.

To avoid embarrassing those trying to shake his right hand, Dole always clutched a pen in

it and reached out with his left.

Dole could be merciless with his rivals, whether Democrat or Republican. When George H.W. Bush defeated him in the 1988 New Hampshire Republican primary, Dole snapped: "Stop lying about my record." If that pales next to the scorching insults in today's political arena, it was shocking at the time.

## Fauci says early reports encouraging about omicron variant

By **GENE JOHNSON**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

coming the dominant strain, suggest that hospitalization rates have not increased alarmingly.

"Thus far, it does not look like there's a great degree of severity to it," Fauci said. "But we have really got to be careful before we make any determinations that it is less severe or it really doesn't cause any severe illness, comparable to delta."

Fauci said the Biden administration is considering lifting travel restrictions against noncitizens entering the United States from several

African countries. They were imposed as the omicron variant exploded in the region, but U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has blasted such measures as "travel apartheid."

"Hopefully we'll be able to lift that ban in a quite reasonable period of time," Fauci said. "We all feel very badly about the hardship that has been put on not only on South Africa but the other African countries."

Omicron had been detected in about a third of U.S. states by Sunday, including



Fauci

in the Northeast, the South, the Great Plains and the West Coast. Wisconsin, Missouri and Louisiana were among the latest states to confirm cases.

But delta remains the dominant variant, making up more than 99% of cases and driving a surge of hospitalizations in the north. National Guard teams have been sent to help overwhelmed hospitals in western New York, and Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker issued an emergency order requiring any hospitals facing limited patient capacity to reduce scheduled procedures that are not urgent.

## 101-year-old returns to Pearl Harbor to remember those lost



Pearl Harbor survivor and World War II Navy veteran David Russell, 101, poses for a photo along with a painting of the USS *Oklahoma* at his home on Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, in Albany, Ore.

**HONOLULU (AP)**—When Japanese bombs began falling on Pearl Harbor, U.S. Navy Seaman 1st Class David Russell first sought refuge below deck on the USS *Oklahoma*.

But a split-second decision on that December morning 80 years ago changed his mind, and likely saved his life.

"They started closing that hatch. And I decided to get out of there," Russell, now 101, said in a recent interview.

Within 12 minutes his battleship would capsize under a barrage of torpedoes. Altogether 429 sailors and Marines from the *Oklahoma* would perish—the greatest death toll

from any ship that day other than the USS *Arizona*, which lost 1,177.

Russell plans to return to Pearl Harbor on Tuesday for a ceremony in remembrance of the more than 2,300 American troops killed in the Dec. 7, 1941, attack that launched the U.S. into World War II.

About 30 survivors and 100 other veterans from the war are expected to observe a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m., the minute the attack began.

Survivors, now in their late 90s or older, stayed home last year due to the coronavirus pandemic and watched a livestream of the event instead.

Russell is traveling to Hawaii with the Best Defense Foundation, a nonprofit founded by former NFL Linebacker Donnie Edwards that helps World War II veterans revisit their old battlefields.

He recalls heading topside when the attack started because he was trained to load anti-aircraft guns and figured he could help if any other loader got hurt.

But Japanese torpedo planes dropped a series of underwater missiles that pummeled the *Oklahoma* before he could get there. Within 12 minutes, the hulking battleship capsized.

"Those darn torpedoes, they just kept hitting us and kept hitting us. I thought they'd never stop," Russell said. "That ship was dancing around."

Russell clambered over and around toppled lockers while the battleship slowly rolled over.

"You had to walk sort of sideways," he said.

Once he got to the main deck, he crawled over the ship's side and eyed the USS *Maryland* moored next door. He didn't want to swim because leaked oil was burning in the water below. Jumping, he caught a rope hanging from the *Maryland* and escaped to that battleship without injury.

He then helped pass ammunition to the *Maryland*'s anti-aircraft guns.

After the battle, Russell and two others went to Ford Island, next to where the battleships were moored, in search of a bathroom. A dispensary and enlisted quarters there had turned into a triage center and place of refuge for hundreds of wounded, and they found horribly burned sailors lining the walls. Many would die in the hours and days ahead.

"Most of them wanted a cigarette, and I didn't smoke at that time but I, uh, I got a pack of cigarettes and some matches, and I lit their cigarettes for them," Russell said. "You feel for those guys, but I couldn't do anything. Just light a cigarette for 'em and let 'em puff the cigarettes."

Russell still thinks about how lucky he was. He ponders why he decided to go topside on the *Oklahoma*, knowing most of the men who stayed behind likely were unable to get out after the hatch closed.

In the first two days after the bombing, a civilian crew from the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard rescued 32 men trapped inside the *Oklahoma* by cutting holes in its hull. But many others perished. Most of those who died were buried in anonymous Honolulu graves marked as "unknowns" because their remains were too degraded to be identified by the time they were removed from the ship between 1942 and 1944.



# Asia



Protesters hold portraits of deposed Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi during an anti-coup demonstration in Mandalay, Myanmar on March 5, 2021. AP

## Suu Kyi sentenced to 4 yrs.

**BANGKOK (AP)**—A special court in Myanmar's capital sentenced the country's ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, to four years in prison on Monday after finding her guilty of incitement and violating coronavirus restrictions, a legal official said.

The sentencing was the first in a series of cases in which the 76-year-old Nobel laureate is being prosecuted since the army seized power on Feb. 1, preventing her National League for Democracy party from starting a second five-year term in office.

The incitement case involved statements posted on her party's Facebook page after she and other party leaders had already been detained by the military, while the coronavirus charge

involved a campaign appearance ahead of elections in November last year which her party overwhelmingly won.

The army, whose allied party lost many seats in the election, claimed massive voting fraud, but independent election observers did not detect any major irregularities.

The court's ruling was conveyed by a legal official who insisted on anonymity for fear of being punished by the authorities. Suu Kyi's trials are closed to the media and spectators, and her lawyers, who had been the sole source of information on the proceedings, were served with gag orders in October forbidding them from releasing information.

The cases against Suu Kyi are widely seen as contrived

to discredit her and keep her from running in the next election. The constitution bars anyone sent to prison after being convicted of a crime from holding high office or becoming a lawmaker.

Opposition to military rule remains strong 10 months after the army's takeover, and the verdict may inflame tensions even further.

There were protest marches on Sunday against the military government and calling for the release of Suu Kyi and other detained members of her government. An army truck deliberately sped into a march by about 30 young people in Yangon, the country's biggest city, and at least three of the protesters may have been killed, according to unconfirmed reports.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### 3 feared dead as Myanmar army truck runs down protesters

**BANGKOK (AP)**—An army vehicle barreled into a peaceful march of anti-government protesters in military-ruled Myanmar's biggest city on Sunday, reportedly killing at least three people, witnesses and a protest organizer said. Sunday's march was one of at least three held in Yangon, and similar rallies were reported in other parts of the country a day ahead of an expected verdict in the first of about a dozen criminal cases against Myanmar civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who was toppled in a military takeover Feb. 1. A video posted on social media showed a speeding small army truck heading into the marchers from behind. Voices can be heard, saying: "The car is coming ... Please help! It hit the children ... Oh! ... Dead! ... Run, ... run!" The video shows about a dozen people running from the spot.

#### Indonesian rescuers dig through volcanic ash after 14 die

**LUMAJANG, Indonesia (AP)**—Rescuers were sifting through smoldering debris and thick mud in search of survivors a day after the highest volcano on Java island erupted with fury, killing at least 14 people with searing gas and ash. Mount Semeru in Lumajang district

in East Java province spewed thick columns of ash more than 12,000 meters (40,000 feet) into the sky in a sudden eruption Saturday triggered by heavy rains. Villages and nearby towns were blanketed and several hamlets buried under tons of mud from volcanic debris. Authorities warned the thousands of people who fled the volcano's wrath not to return during Sunday's lull in activity. But some were desperate to check on livestock and possessions left behind. In several areas, everything—from the thinnest tree branch to couches and chairs inside homes—was caked with ash.

#### Solomon Islands leader faces no-confidence vote after riots

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)**—Lawmakers in the Solomon Islands debated on Monday whether they still have confidence in the prime minister, after rioters last month set fire to buildings and looted stores in the capital. China, meanwhile, said it was shipping in aid for its citizens caught up in the violence. Many businesses remained closed in Honiara ahead of the vote over concerns that violence could erupt again, leading to an eerie calm. Troops and police from Australia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand are helping keep the peace at the request of the Solomon Islands government.

# World

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### As Iran nuclear talks hit snags, Israel seeks harder US line

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—The long-delayed resumption of nuclear talks with Iran has gotten off to a rough start—with Iran digging in and its negotiating partners openly voicing frustration and pessimism. After five days of talks in Vienna ended last week, the United States said Iran did not appear to be serious. European diplomats accused Iran of backtracking on previous promises. Even Russia, which has stronger relations with Iran, questioned Iran's commitment to the process.

#### Belgian police use water, tear gas on COVID-19 protesters

**BRUSSELS (AP)**—Belgian police used water cannon and tear gas Sunday to disperse some rowdy protesters in Brussels after most demonstrators marched peacefully to protest tightened COVID-19 restrictions that aim to counter

a surge of coronavirus infections. Thousands came to reject the new measures announced Friday, the third week in a row that the government has tightened its rules as an avalanche of new cases strains the country's health services, depriving people with other life-threatening diseases of treatment.

#### Pope chides Europe, comforts migrants on return to Lesbos

**LESBOS, Greece (AP)**—Pope Francis returned Sunday to the Greek island of Lesbos to offer comfort to migrants at a refugee camp and blast what he said was Europe's indifference and self-interest "that condemns to death those on the fringes." "Please, let us stop this shipwreck of civilization!" Francis said at the Mavrovouni camp, a cluster of white U.N. containers on the edge of the sea lined by barbed wire fencing and draped with laundry drying in the air.

## 1st Death Anniversary

**We, the family of the late, +Inocencia Taisakan Tudela, would like to invite all our family and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the first year death anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.**

Daily mass will be offered from December 7 - 15, 2021 at  
**San Jose Church:**  
 December 7th - 11th, 6:00PM  
 December 12th at 9:00AM  
 December 13th - 15th 6:00PM

Nightly Rosary is being offered at 7:00PM at the family residence in Oleai. Due to spread of COVID-19 please continue to practice the 3 W's to stay protected.

**Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated**

*Jesus Cepeda Tudela & Family*



# Overdrive

The 2022 Honda Civic Si.



MARK PHELAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS/TNS

## NUTS & BOLTS

Compact front-wheel drive, four-door sporty sedan

- **Base price:** \$27,300 (excluding \$1,795 destination charge)
- **On sale now**
- **Vehicle tested:** 2022 Honda Civic Si
- **Price as tested:** \$27,500 including destination.
- **Engine:** 1.5L turbocharged four-cylinder
- **Output:** 200 hp @ 6,000 rpm; 192 pound-feet of torque @ 1,800-5,000 rpm
- **Transmission:** Six-speed manual
- **Estimated EPA fuel economy rating:** 27 mpg city/37 highway/31 combined. Premium gasoline recommended for rated power
- **EPA estimated annual fuel cost:** \$2,050 (at current prices)
- **Wheelbase:** 107.7 inches
- **Length:** 184 inches
- **Width:** 70.9 inches
- **Height:** 50.5 inches
- **Curb weight:** 2,952 pounds
- **Passenger volume:** 96.6 cubic feet
- **Cargo space:** 14.1 cubic feet

## 2022 HONDA CIVIC SI

# Perfect balance of power and handling for affordable fun

By MARK PHELAN  
DETROIT FREE PRESS

**MALIBU, California**—Honda's sold hundreds of thousands of Civic Si compacts since the badge debuted in 1986, but in an SUV-crazed world, the sporty little car just may qualify as the auto industry's best, and best-kept secret.

Attractively, but modestly trimmed, the Si doesn't scream for attention like some pocket rockets, but it's a scream around curves, as the coppery one I drove around some of southern California's most challenging mountain roads proved shortly before Thanksgiving.

The Si—all new this year and based on the new Civic model that debuted a few months ago—is easy to drive in everyday traffic, but when it comes to life on twisting roads, where it's precise steering, beefy brakes and stiff chassis and modest yet enjoyable power pay off.

The Civic Si and the VW Golf GTI—also new this year—ensure that while SUVs may rule the sales charts, there's a lot of life left in the class of sporty and affordable compacts they lead.

How much? What do you get? Civic Si prices start at \$27,300. All models get a 200-horsepower turbocharged 1.5L four-cylinder engine and six-speed manual transmission. There is no automatic transmission, a throwback trait that will limit Si sales but make its devotees even more committed to the car.

Summer tires add \$200. It's

money well spent, and less of an extravagance than you might think: Swap them for winter tires when the temperature falls below 40 degrees; they'll last longer than you expect and the winters will keep you safe and protect the Si's striking matte black alloy wheels from winter corrosion and dings.

Honda charges a destination fee of \$1,015.

The Si also gets bigger brakes than regular Civic sedans, standard Bose audio, dual exhaust, rev matching, limited slip differential, 18-inch black alloy wheels, sport seats and red accents.

Performance compacts used to be a growth market. Virtually every brand offered a model that at least looked sporty. Some actually were, though many were all show and no go.

The attrition in compact cars that attended SUV's ascendance weeded out the poseurs. The OGs are pretty much all that's left: Civic Si, VW Golf GTI and Subaru WRX—of which more shortly (I drive the new model in December. Merry Christmas to me).

The Hyundai Elantra N hopes to join the leaders soon. It'll have more power and a correspondingly higher price. (I expect to drive one in early 2022.)

The compact performance class is about more than raw power, though. Handling and tractability matter at least as much, in part because the front-wheel-drive format that dominates the group doesn't reward the massive torque rear-drive

sports and muscle cars boast.

Modest power is one of the Civic Si's defining characteristics and greatest charms. While a mere 200 hp may not look like enough to exit the parking lot in a world full of Dodge Hellcats, ludicrous-mode Teslas and WTF-mode GMC Hummers, it's not how many, but how you use 'em. The Honda Civic Si uses every horsepower and each of its 192 pound-feet of torque widely.

The 1.5L turbocharged engine is remarkably flexible, pulling smoothly without complaint at low speed in second and third gears.

Honda's shifters remain among the industry's best, with short throws and easy action. The clutch didn't require much effort.

One of the beauties of a modestly powered vehicle and a great chassis on a tight challenging road is that you can have loads of fun without going dangerously fast. On snaky Mulholland Highway and neighboring canyon-clinging roads in LA and Ventura counties, that included some tight curves that lived up to their 15-mph posted speed.

The Si's steering is firm and precise, equally suited to mountain nail-biters and sweeping curves on the scenic Pacific Coast Highway.

## Safety and driver assistance features

- Adaptive cruise control
- Blind spot and cross traffic alert
- Forward collision alert and automatic braking

- Lane departure alert and assist
- Road departure mitigation
- Automatic headlights
- Automatic high beams
- Traffic sign recognition
- Rear seat reminder.

Still no tuning dial? Seriously?

The cabin is quiet and comfortable. There was little wind or road noise, despite the grippy summer tires.

The interior is attractive and comfortable. The front seat bolsters were effective and comfortable. Headroom and rear legroom are fine. At 14.1 cubic feet, the trunk is a bit snug, but a wide opening makes loading large cargo easy so you can make the most of it.

The gauges are big and clear. A 9-inch touch screen controls many features and displays navigation and other information well.

Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are available. Wireless charging is not.

Honda gets full marks for gauge clarity and climate control ease of use, but for some reason the automaker continues to balk at providing a tuning dial for its audio system. Thankfully, it has restored a volume dial.

I realize that most people don't tune their radios often, relying on presets, but having to press the "skip" command on the touch screen for each station you advance, or retreat to another menu for a list of all stations, is a pain in the neck.

Other than that admittedly minor shortcoming—shared with other Civic models—it's hard to find any fault in the Civic Si.

## MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976.

Send questions along with name and town to [motormouth.tribune@gmail.com](mailto:motormouth.tribune@gmail.com).



## What's up with the brakes?

**Q** The anti-lock brakes on my 2003 Camry activate on an intermittent, but fairly frequent basis. They sometimes pulsate when slowing to a stop on dry pavement. It happens right before stopping, never when going the speed limit. The Toyota dealer mechanic test drove it, and of course, it did not malfunction for them. They said they could not diagnose the problem unless the ABS light is lit, but not to worry. The brakes are hydraulic, and the ABS is electronic, so the brakes will continue to stop the car. Is it OK not to be concerned? My wife says a new car is the solution, but it would be great to keep this one for a little while longer. What are your thoughts?

**A** All cars have hydraulic brakes that have been essentially the same for decades. The anti-lock brake system is an adjunct. If the ABS fails, the regular brakes, the brakes you use every day, continue to function normally. There is no need for concern. If the ABS kicks in just before coming to a stop, it is usually due to a weak signal from one or more sensors. This may, or may not, trigger a warning light. Replacing the sensor—or sensors—will not bankrupt you.

**Q** With the prevalence of catalytic converter theft, it occurred to me that if you could not sell a catalytic converter without being a licensed automotive business, stealing the whole car is the only option.

**A** It is not only illegal to steal converters, but also to sell them and to accept stolen cats. It is usually a misdemeanor that comes with a stiff fine. "Cat burglars" are only after a quick buck, not a whole car.

**Q:** I have a 2004 Mercury Sable with a 3.0-liter V-6 engine. Odometer shows about 140,000 miles. In the past I have used Motorcraft SAE 5W-20 synthetic blend oil. Last summer I had problems with the engine shutting off when driven for 20 or 30 miles. The low oil pressure warning came on. After the engine had cooled for several minutes, it could be restarted. The Ford dealer found the oil pressure was only about 8 psi and said the engine may need to be replaced or rebuilt. One mechanic suggested using a motor oil with a higher viscosity. Do you have any suggestions how to correct it without replacing or rebuilding the engine?

**A** It is worth a try to use a heavier weight, traditional motor oil, but there may be significant wear inside the engine. Another possibility is a worn oil pump or restricted pickup tube screen. Get a pro to do an oil pressure test. A rebuilt short block may be in your future.

**Q** The guy that wrote to you about drafting his Tesla behind vehicles on the road must be about two bricks short of a load. Not only is that very dangerous as you pointed out but following too closely is totally illegal. In Florida it is three points on your license if caught or four points if it results in an accident. I just hope that moron isn't a resident of Orlando, because we have enough nuts driving around here as it is. Always enjoy your columns with spot-on accurate advice.

**A** Nothing is quite as dangerous as a loose nut behind the wheel.



# Life & Style

## Kennedy Center Honors back once more, Biden attends

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Kennedy Center Honors is returning to tradition this year.

The lifetime achievement awards for artistic excellence will be presented Sunday night in a gala at the Kennedy Center’s main opera house after the coronavirus pandemic forced delays and major changes to last year’s plans.

Honorees include Motown Records creator Berry Gordy, “Saturday Night Live” mastermind Lorne Michaels, actress-singer Bette Midler, opera singer Justino Diaz and folk music legend Joni Mitchell.

This year’s event also represents a return to political normalcy, with President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden attending. The Democrat is the first president to be at the Kennedy Center Honors since 2016.

President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump skipped the show the first three years he was in office after several of the artists honored in 2017, his first year in office, threatened to boycott a White House reception if the Republican participated.

The Trumps also scrapped a traditional White House ceremony for the honorees, which Biden resumed Sunday afternoon with a lighthearted holiday gathering.

“We welcome everyone back,” he told a crowd of about 150 seated in the East Room, decked out with Christmas trees and wreaths. Guests included Vice President Kamala Harris, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Caroline Kennedy, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Chita Rivera, Steve Martin and Herbie Hancock.

“Our nation is stronger, more dynamic and more vibrant because of you,” Biden told the honorees.

Biden praised the work of the artists, their “sixth sense” that helps them create and move so many people, saying: “I don’t think you fully appreciate what you do for so many people.”

He spoke of Diaz’s “sound of soul,” Gordy’s creation of “one of the most iconic businesses” in American history with Motown Records. With Michaels, he joked: “Finally, it’s my turn to say something about him,” poking fun at Michaels’ SNL show, which routinely mocks presidents, including the current commander in chief.

“You make me laugh at myself a lot,” Biden said, then went on to say Michaels was auditioning actors right now to play him next on SNL. Biden asked Steve Martin to stand as an example of the type of talent Michaels has cultivated over the past decades.

Martin paused and asked the president, “Do you want me to play you?” The crowd erupted in laughter.

Biden then professed his admiration for both Mitchell and Midler, telling Midler that “people will never forget how you make them feel. That’s your gift, it’s incredible.”

And lastly: “Joni. Your words and melodies touch the deepest parts of our soul,” Biden said.

Last year, the pandemic forced organizers to bump the annual December ceremony back to May 2021. Performance tributes to the artists were filmed over several nights and at multiple locations on campus.

The event kicked off with a rousing round of applause for the return of the president and vice president, and the national anthem was performed by Yo-Yo Ma, who encouraged everyone to sing the final lines together.



Skiers and snowboarders hit the slopes Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021 at Sunday River Ski Resort in Newry, Maine.

AP

## Skiing Santas back to shredding Maine slopes for charity

NEWRY, Maine (AP)—Santa is back to “sleighting” it on the ski slope.

More than 230 skiing and snowboarding Kris Kringles took to a western Maine resort on Sunday to raise money for charity.

The jolly ol’ St. Nicks took a break last year because of the global pandemic. But they returned to kick off the ski season in full holiday garb, including white beards, red hats and red outfits.

A sea of red Santa suits descended the mountain, carving wide turns as their beards fluttered in the icy wind. At least one green-costumed Grinch snuck his way into the mix, disguised in Santa’s coat and hat.

The event took place in the western Maine town of Newry, home to the Sunday River Ski Resort, the state’s busiest.

Before dashing through the snow, the Santas must all donate a minimum of \$20, which helps support local education and recreation programs. The event raised several thousand dollars for the Sunday River Community Fund, a local charity.

## Tom Holland’s next dance: Playing Fred Astaire

LONDON (AP)—Tom Holland is trading in his Spidey suit for some tap shoes. The “Spider-Man” star told The Associated Press Sunday that he plans to play Fred Astaire in an upcoming biopic.

“Oh, I am playing Fred Astaire,” Holland said at an event in London. “Yeah, I am.”

Producer Amy Pascal recently said she wanted Holland to play Astaire, but Holland had yet to comment on the possibility until now.

While Holland’s dance background hasn’t necessarily been highlighted in his superhero films, the 25-year-old did play the title role in “Billy Elliott: The Musical” from 2008 to 2010.

Holland said he still needs to read the Astaire script, which just came in a week ago.

“I haven’t read it yet. They haven’t given it to me,” Holland added. “Amy Pascal has the script. She FaceTimed me earlier. I was in the bath and we had a lovely FaceTime.”

But before he steps into Astaire’s shoes, Holland has another Spider-Man movie to unspool on the world: “No Way Home,” which hits theaters on Dec. 17. Whether or not there’s more Peter Parker in his future remains to be seen.

“I love this character more than anything. This character has changed my life. I have a relationship with my fans that is so wonderful. I couldn’t ask for it to be any better,” Holland said.

“But I want to do what’s best for the character. If it’s time for me to step down and the next person to step up, I’ll do so proudly. You know, I’d love to see a more diverse Spider-Man universe, which would be really exciting. If I could be a part of that—if I could be the Iron Man to the next young Spider-Man or Spider-Woman, that would be great. But at the moment, all I have to think about is the character and what’s best for Peter Parker,” he said.



Holland

## Cousin remains tangled in relatives’ longtime feud

DEAR ABBY: My cousin “Scotty” invited my husband and me to see his new house. He made it clear, several times, that my sister and her husband, “Ian,” are not invited because his wife doesn’t like Ian. My sister and brother-in-law would have no problem if they never saw Scotty again, and I didn’t intend for them to accompany us on this visit. However, every time I speak to Scotty, he reiterates not to bring my brother-in-law along.

I admit, Ian is a difficult guy to get to know, but I have known him for 40 years, and he really has a heart of gold. I think Scotty is being disrespectful to me by repeating that Ian isn’t welcome. How can I resolve this in a way that won’t result in not communicating with Scotty ever again?

RELATIVE DRAMA IN FLORIDA

DEAR RELATIVE DRAMA: The next time Scotty starts on his rant about Ian, head him off by interrupting him and saying, “You have already told me that. You don’t need to repeat it.” Then change the subject.

DEAR ABBY: My dear husband died suddenly last year. It’s been difficult, but I am blessed to have good friends and close family. The hardest part, however, has been the four-plus months it took to decipher his online accounts. He left me few passwords, and many of his contacts were uncooperative, some even cruel. Why should it be impossible to pay someone else’s bill? I cannot stress enough how important it is to have a log or written account of passwords and usernames. It could have saved countless hours of stressful negotiations.

LESSON LEARNED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR LESSON LEARNED: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your husband. You are not the only spouse who has written about this very real problem. Sometimes the concept of a world without us in it can be difficult to comprehend, hence the hesitancy to share passwords. But death can come at any time, and, as in your husband’s case, with little—or no—warning. Readers, it can spare your loved ones a world of unneeded stress to log those passwords and make sure your spouse, trustee or attorney can access them in case of emergency.

DEAR ABBY: When my wife of nine months makes a dental or medical appointment, she gives her last name as her late husband’s last name. He died 10 years ago. Should I be disappointed with my bride since, before we were married, she said she would adopt my last name?

NEWLYWED IN FLORIDA

DEAR NEWLYWED: Why your bride would be hesitant to do this, I can’t guess, but because it bothers you, discuss it with her before it festers. Informing health care professionals about a name change is fairly simple. All one has to do is inform the receptionist that a new name should be entered into the computer.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

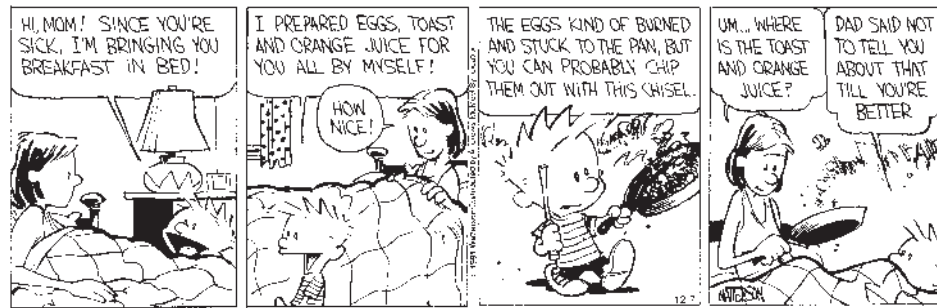




# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Chimed  
5 Misfortunes  
9 Binge  
12 Initial chip  
13 Oxidation result  
14 Hot temper  
15 "Home Alone" actor  
17 "Ben-Hur" studio  
18 Social standing  
19 Office notes  
21 — d'art  
24 Neat  
25 Debtors' notes  
26 Spandex-like  
30 JFK's veep  
31 Tennis star  
32 "Yoo- —!"  
33 Made more powerful  
35 TV alien  
36 Cartoon frames  
37 Famed frontiersman

**DOWN**

38 Taj —  
40 Greek letters  
42 Docs' bloc  
43 "You Are So Beautiful" singer  
48 Thither  
49 Hammett pooch  
50 Mighty trees  
51 Assoc.  
52 Regretted  
53 Pukes  
3 To the — degree  
4 Literary categories  
5 Tehran's country  
6 Galoot  
7 Leary's drug  
8 Thwarts  
9 High-fashion shoe  
10 Jason's ship  
11 Jewels  
16 Garfield, for  
17 one  
20 D.C. summer hrs.  
21 Fixes a squeak  
22 Newsom of base-ball lore  
23 "Nightline" anchor  
24 Stumble  
26 Freshens the lawn, say  
27 Capote nickname  
28 Trumpet  
29 Oxen's burden  
31 Vacuum container  
34 Pod  
35 Kremlin setting  
37 Life story  
38 BLT spread  
39 Roman god of love  
40 "Pistol" of basket-ball  
41 Large amount  
44 Buckeyes' sch.  
45 Chiang — shek  
46 Heart chart (Abbr.)  
47 Blog feed abbr.

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

F	E	A	R	S	P	I	G	A	I	T
A	R	C	A	D	I	A	N	E	M	M
T	E	E	N	A	G	E	D	L	O	A
T	H	R	O	E	S	C	O	T		
B	O	O	R	T	A	T	T	O	O	S
A	L	I	L	E	V	E	L	P	E	A
A	C	H	I	E	V	E		Q	U	A
S	U	N	D	A	E	S	E	A		
M	E	N	U		F	V	E	N	T	U
E	O	E	N		D	E	C		S	T

**Yesterday's answer 12-7**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13					14	
15				16					17	
			18					19	20	
21	22	23				24				
25				26	27				28	29
30				31					32	
33			34						35	
		36						37		
38	39					40	41			
42				43	44				45	46
48				49					50	
51				52					53	

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Emily Browning, 33; C. Thomas Howell, 55; Tom Waits, 72; Ellen Burstyn, 89.

**Happy Birthday:** Put in the effort and you will reap the rewards. A fast pace, quick mind and creative imagination will take you where you want to go. It's up to you to take advantage of the opportunities that come your way and to enjoy the life adjustments you make. Share your enthusiasm with others, and take a leadership position. Your numbers are 2, 12, 20, 29, 34, 37, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Lean on someone who is always there for you. The added reinforcement will give you an edge. Be smart about the way you handle your peers, and you will gain respect and support that will tip the scale in your favor. \*\*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Keep an open mind, but don't take unnecessary risks that put you in a compromising position. A minimalist approach will save you time and money and help you avoid an argument with someone who can influence your status or reputation. \*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Assess a situation, make your move and finish what you start. Living up to your word will help ward off criticism and interference. A steady pace and articulate plan will lead to victory. Refuse to let emotional manipulation slow you down. \*\*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Map out what you can do before committing to something that may not be feasible. An act of kindness shouldn't put you in a vulnerable position. Get your facts straight, and find a novel

way to reach the specified requirements. \*\*\*  
**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Don't tempt fate. Stick to a schedule, and take care of your responsibilities. Don't get involved in gossip or show gullibility when dealing with peers. A resourceful approach will help you avoid wasting valuable time and letting someone make you look bad. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Mull things over. Be smart by easing into any change that comes your way; things will turn out better than anticipated. A networking event will pay off. Self-improvement will give you the boost you need to excel. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Consider what's essential, and concentrate on keeping the peace and being honest about how you feel and what you plan to do next. Don't let emotions stand in the way when it comes to your happiness, health and financial well-being. \*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Do your part and make a difference. Look for solutions instead of complaining about what's wrong. Change begins with you, and documenting everything will help you keep a tab on who does what and what helps the most. Romance is encouraged. \*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Dive in, take charge and get things done. Take the initiative, and you will turn an idea into something concrete. Refuse to let someone's negativity or misleading rhetoric come between you and what you are trying to accomplish. Finish what you start. \*\*\*

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			8	1		4		
	7				3	6	1	2
		4		2		5		
2						7		
7		8				5		1
	1							3
	3			5		1		
6	8	7	1				9	
	5			7	6			

Difficulty Level ★★

12/07

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	9	5	3	1	2	6	4	8
3	6	2	4	9	8	5	7	1
1	8	4	6	7	5	9	3	2
6	3	9	2	4	7	1	8	5
2	5	7	8	3	1	4	9	6
4	1	8	5	6	9	3	2	7
5	4	1	7	2	3	8	6	9
8	7	6	9	5	4	2	1	3
9	2	3	1	8	6	7	5	4

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Concentrate on getting things done on time. Use your imagination, and you'll find a way to outmaneuver anyone who tries to compete with you. Use your physical attributes to your advantage. Don't exaggerate or make unrealistic promises. Truth matters. \*\*\*



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** A last-minute change will limit what you can do, causing doubt and stress. Have a back-up plan in place before you commit to someone or something that has the potential to run amok. Keep your goals as simple as possible. \*\*\*



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't let anyone take advantage of your kindness and generosity. Offer only what you can afford and what will not compromise you mentally, emotionally or financially. A little romance will lighten the mood and enhance a meaningful relationship. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are unique, resourceful and open-minded. You are passionate and impulsive. ☼: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DISNEY WORLD RIDES

Solution: 8 letters

M M A D V E N T U R E F A S N  
R I A F R O Z E N K K A L I D  
R E L R C P R I N C E T A G I  
E S D L K P T S A O C R A D P  
V T A N E E E R R R T N Y W P  
O F M O U N T A I N G E N A E  
C I G A M H N P K P N P I R R  
S L L A F H T I L R O N P F A  
I R F I E S T A U A A R S S T  
D I A R A O N O R M C K T O A  
U A S P C K J T E S T E W S V  
M H A P I E S E V E R E S T A  
B C E M O D G N I K R R A T S  
O H S A L P S D R S E C A P S  
D O U B L E X P E D I T I O N

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12/7

Adventure, Astro, Avatar, Chairlifts, Coast, Creek, Dipper, Discover, Double, Dumbo, Dwarfs, Edge, EPCOT, Everest, Expedition, Falcon, Falls, Fiesta, Frozen, Gangplank, Journey, Kall, Kingdom, Magic, Mania, Marketplace, Millennium, Mountain, Peak, Prince, Ranger, Rapids, River, Rock, Seas, Space, Spin, Splash, Star, Test, Thunder, Tower, Track, Train

Yesterday's Answer: Tablet

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.



# Lions win on final play, end winless string 29-27 over Vikes



**DETROIT (AP)—** The Lions finally found a victory when Jared Goff threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Amon-Ra St. Brown as time expired, lifting previously winless Detroit to a 29-27 win over the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday.

Not only was the finish dramatic, it was stunning. Goff led the Lions on a 75-yard decisive possession without a timeout after Kirk Cousins threw a go-ahead 3-yard touchdown pass to Justin Jefferson with 1:50 left. The Vikings failed on a 2-point conversion for the third time; those missed opportunities proved costly.

Goff threw two touchdown passes in the first half to put Detroit ahead by 14 points, its biggest lead this season. Then he turned over the ball twice in the second half to help Minnesota rally.

He came through in the end, leading the long drive and delivering a sharp pass to the rookie receiver, who took advantage of the Vikings secondary playing too deep in the end zone.

The Lions (1-10-1) ended a 15-game winless streak that lasted 364 days since winning at Chicago last season, giving first-year coach Dan Campbell his first victory with the franchise.

The Vikings (5-7) hurt their chances of earning a wild-card spot in the playoffs by losing a game they were favored to win by a touchdown—and led until the very last tick of the clock.

## Cardinals 33, Bears 22

In Chicago, Kyler Murray threw for two touchdowns and ran for two more in his return from an ankle injury.

The Cardinals (10-2) got back Murray and three-time All-Pro receiver DeAndre Hopkins after both players missed three games because of injuries, then rolled to an easy victory over Chicago (4-8). The NFC West leaders, who have the NFL's best record, intercepted Andy Dalton four times.

The Cardinals, who were coming off a bye, improved to 7-0 on the road, with each win by 10 points or more.

Jalen Thompson and Budda Baker picked off passes that deflected off the intended target on Chicago's first two possessions. The Cardinals took advantage.

Murray completed 11 of 15 passes for 123 yards, giving him 10,092 in three seasons, on a cool and soggy afternoon. At 24 years, 120 days, he became the fourth-youngest player with 10,000 career yards passing, according to NFL research. Drew Bledsoe (23 years, 299 days), Jameis Winston (23 years, 303 days) and Dan Marino (24 years,



Detroit Lions linebacker Josh Woods (51) and linebacker Austin Bryant (2) run off the field after the second half of an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021, in Detroit. AP

63 days) are the only younger players to reach it. Murray also joined Cam Newton as the only players in NFL history with at least 10,000 yards passing and 1,500 rushing in his first three seasons.

## Buccaneers 30, Falcons 17

In Atlanta, Tom Brady threw for 368 yards and four touchdowns—two of them to longtime favorite target Rob Gronkowski—and the Buccaneers moved to the brink of clinching the NFC South title.

The Bucs (9-3) won their third straight game and pushed their division lead to four games over Atlanta, Carolina and New Orleans (all 5-7) with five games remaining.

Brady improved to 10-0 in his career against the Falcons, including four straight wins over the last two seasons since moving from New England to Tampa Bay.

The 44-year-old Brady completed 38 of 51 throws, including touchdowns of 27 and 11 yards to Gronkowski—their first scoring passes since Week 2 against the Falcons. The prolific duo has combined for 90 regular-season TDs, passing Phillip Rivers and Antonio Gates for No. 2 in NFL history. Only Peyton Manning and Marvin Harrison have more, hooking up for 112.

Brady shook off a huge blunder in the final minute of the first half, when 278-pound defensive lineman Marlon Davidson picked off a short pass and glided 3 yards into the end zone for a touchdown that cut Tampa Bay's lead to 20-17 at the break.

## Steelers 20, Ravens 19

In Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh thwarted a 2-point conversion attempt after Lamar Jackson's touchdown pass to Sammy Watkins got the Ravens within one with 12 seconds to go.

Rather than turn to star kicker Justin Tucker for an al-

most automatic 35-yard extra point, the Ravens (8-4) went for the knockout punch. Baltimore tight end Mark Andrews couldn't haul in a flip by Jackson. The Steelers (6-5-1) recovered an onside kick to seal it.

Pittsburgh ended a three-game winless streak behind the 39th fourth-quarter comeback engineered by Ben Roethlisberger. The 39-year-old quarterback threw for 236 yards and two second-half touchdowns to Diontae Johnson, the final one a 5-yard catch-and-run with 1:48 to play that gave the Steelers a 20-13 lead.

## Chiefs 22, Broncos 9

In Kansas City, Mo., the resurgent Kansas City defense shut down Teddy Bridgewater and Denver, Daniel Sorenson returned an interception 75 yards for a touchdown, and the Chiefs won their fifth straight.

Patrick Mahomes had 184 yards passing with a touchdown run and an interception for the Chiefs (8-4), who now lead the Chargers by a game and the Broncos and Raiders by two in their race for a sixth straight AFC West championship.

Things went haywire for the Broncos early in the game, when a 20-play drive ended with a failed fourth-down play rather than an easy field goal. And they didn't get a whole lot better when Bridgewater threw a pair of second-half interceptions, including the one that Sorenson picked off with 9 1/2 minutes left to put the game away.

## Seahawks 30, 49ers 23

In Seattle, Russell Wilson played his best game since returning from finger surgery throwing for 231 yards and two touchdowns, and the Seahawks made a late goal line stand.

Seattle (4-8) snapped a three-game losing streak but it wasn't easy as a number of mistakes gave the 49ers a chance for a tying touchdown in the final moments.

Gerald Everett fumbled at the San Francisco 2 with 4:03 remaining and Seattle on the cusp of a clinching score. Jimmy Garoppolo led the 49ers 95 yards to the Seattle 3. But his third-down pass for Trent Sherfield was broken up by Sidney Jones, and his fourth-down pass was deflected at the line of scrimmage by Carlos Dunlap.

It was the second big play by Dunlap, who sacked Garoppolo for a safety early in the third quarter.

Newly signed running back Adrian Peterson moved into a tie with Jim Brown for 10th all-time with 126 career touchdowns, scoring on a 1-yard run in the second quarter for Seattle.

## Washington 17, Raiders 15

In Las Vegas, Taylor Heinicke threw two touchdown passes and set up new kicker Brian Johnson's winning 48-yard field goal with 37 seconds remaining to lead Washington to its fourth straight victory.

Heinicke threw a 7-yard TD pass to Logan Thomas on the opening drive and a 4-yarder to Antonio Gibson early in the fourth quarter after extending the drive with a key third-down scramble.

But Washington (6-6) then allowed the Raiders (6-6) to score on successive drives to take a 15-14 lead on Daniel Carlson's 37-yard field goal set up by Nate Hobbs' interception of Heinicke.

Heinicke responded and drove Washington down the field to set up the kick by Johnson, who was signed earlier this week after Joey Slye went down with an injury.

## Rams 37, Jaguars 7

In Inglewood, Calif., Cooper Kupp, Van Jefferson and Odell Beckham Jr. caught touchdown passes from Matthew Stafford, and the Rams snapped their three-game losing streak.

Stafford passed for 295 yards while Sony Michel rushed for 121 yards and a score for the Rams (8-4), who rebounded from a winless November with a solid all-around effort against a struggling opponent. Kupp had his 100th reception of a remarkable season among his eight catches for 129 yards.

Stafford also snapped back into form, playing turnover-free football after giving the ball away six times during the three-game skid that threatened to derail the Rams' playoff plans. Los Angeles still has never lost four straight in coach Sean McVay's half-decade in charge.

Rookie Trevor Lawrence passed for 145 yards for the Jaguars (2-10), who have lost four straight.

## Chargers 41, Bengals 22

In Cincinnati, Justin Herbert passed for three touchdowns and Tevaughn Campbell returned a Joe Mixon fumble 61 yards for a score.

Herbert was 26 of 35 for 317 yards as Los Angeles (7-5) bounced back nicely after losing 28-13 at Denver last weekend. Mike Williams had five receptions for 110 yards, and Keenan Allen caught two of Herbert's TD passes.

Cincinnati (7-5) stormed back after falling behind 24-0 in the second quarter. Mixon's 7-yard TD run made it 24-22 with 7:10 left in the third. But Mixon was stuffed on the 2-point conversion try and Campbell's fumble return in the fourth helped close it out for Los Angeles.

The Bengals committed four of the game's seven turnovers. Battling a hand injury for much of the day, Joe Burrow threw two interceptions and lost a fumble.

## Eagles 33, Jets 18

In East Rutherford, N.J., Gardner Minshew started in place

of an injured Jalen Hurts and led the clock-eating Philadelphia Eagles to scores on their first seven possessions.

Minshew was 20 of 25 for 242 yards and two touchdowns to Dallas Goedert. Kenneth Gainwell ran for a score, Jake Elliott kicked four field goals and the Eagles (6-7) improved to 12-0 all-time against the Jets (3-9).

With Hurts out with an ankle injury, Philadelphia bounced back from a 13-7 loss to the Giants last weekend at MetLife Stadium to slice through the Jets' defense drive after drive. The only possession on which the Eagles didn't score was their last.

But the win might have come at a cost as running back Miles Sanders left in the fourth quarter with an ankle injury after running for 120 yards on 24 carries. Center Jason Kelce also limped off the field at the two-minute warning.

## Dolphins 20, Giants 9

In Miami Gardens, Fla., Tua Tagovailoa threw a pair of short touchdown passes, and the Dolphins extended their winning streak to five games.

Isaiah Ford and Mack Hollins had the scoring grabs for Miami (6-7), which has shaken off a 1-7 start. Jaylen Waddle had nine catches for 90 yards for the Dolphins, and rookie Jaelan Phillips had two more sacks—giving him five in his past two games.

Tagovailoa completed 30 of 41 passes for 244 yards and the two scores.

Mike Glennon started at quarterback for the Giants (4-8) in place of Daniel Jones, who was sidelined with a neck injury. Glennon completed 23 of 44 throws for 187 yards, and Saquon Barkley had 55 rushing yards on 11 carries.

## Colts 31, Texans 0

In Houston, Jonathan Taylor ran for 143 yards and two touchdowns and the Colts rolled.

The Texans turned over the ball twice in the first quarter and quarterback Tyrod Taylor was benched in the third quarter as Houston (2-10) lost for the ninth time in 10 games.

Indianapolis' Taylor, who leads the NFL in yards rushing, has 16 rushing touchdowns this season, which ties the franchise record set by Lenny Moore in 1964. It's the 10th straight game when he's ran for a touchdown, the longest streak in the NFL since LaDainian Tomlinson did it in 18 straight in the 2004 and 2005 seasons.

Carson Wentz threw for 158 yards and a touchdown for the Colts (7-6) before being replaced by Sam Ehlinger with five minutes left in the fourth quarter and the game long decided.



# Jazz beat Cavaliers by 1 point for 4th straight win



**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Once the shot left Darius Garland's hands, the Utah Jazz couldn't do anything but hope it didn't drop.

Sometimes, defense comes down to a simple wish.

Garland missed a potential game-winner with 2.9 seconds left as the Jazz, who got 35 points from Donovan Mitchell, survived Cleveland's late surge for their fourth straight win, 109-108 over the Cavaliers on Sunday.

Rudy Gobert had 20 rebounds and five blocks, Bojan Bogdanovic added 16 points and Rudy Gay had 15 for Utah, which made 20 3-pointers and gave away a 15-point lead in the fourth.

The Cavs had a chance to win, and coach J.B. Bickerstaff put the ball in Garland's hands. But his 28-footer was long, and Jarrett Allen couldn't get his tip to drop as Cleveland had its winning streak stopped at four.

"That last possession, I knew it was going to go to him because I've known J.B. as a head coach for quite a while," Jazz guard Mike Conley said. "I just tried to stay up as high as I could and make sure it was contested. I told him (Garland), it was like playing against myself."

Bickerstaff didn't second-guess his decision. "If I could do it over again, I would do the same thing and let him make a play," he said.

Garland scored 31 points, Allen added 17 points and 11 rebounds and rookie Evan Mobley had 14 points and 12



Utah Jazz's Donovan Mitchell (45) shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers' Jarrett Allen (31) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021, in Cleveland. AP

rebounds for the Cavs, who were back at home after beating Dallas, Miami and Washington. It was the first time since 1975 that the Cavs won three straight on the road over teams with winning records.

"That's a really good team and they made some shots," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said as his squad opened a four-game trip. "It's a really good win for us—starting the trip with an early game in the East is not easy."

Utah opened its 15-point lead in the early moments of the fourth on Conley's

3-pointer and seemed poised to put the Cavs away.

However, as has been the case all season, Cleveland fought back.

The Cavs reeled off 15 straight points to tie it 97-all on Ricky Rubio's scoop shot with 8:43 left. Cedi Osman contributed to the flurry with a dunk, 3-pointer and steal.

"We never gave up," said Rubio, who finished with 15 points. "We've been in every single game this season."

Mitchell had a chance to put the Jazz ahead by three, but

Mobley came across the lane and blocked his layup with 22 seconds to go. The Cavs corralled the ball and called time to set up a final shot.

Garland initially drove the lane, but got turned away. He wound up with the ball at the top of the key and launched his deep 3 that was long, and the Jazz survived Allen's follow attempt.

"I work on that shot every day," said Garland, who has scored 30 points in consecutive games for the first time. "It felt good. I was open."

## Hornets 130, Hawks 127

In Atlanta, Miles Bridges scored 32 points for a short-handed Charlotte team that leaned on its best 3-point shooting game of the season to beat Atlanta.

Kelly Oubre Jr. made six 3s and scored 28 points for Charlotte. The Hornets made a season-high 17 3s.

John Collins led Atlanta with a season-best 31 points and 12 rebounds.

The four Charlotte players held out after being placed in

the NBA's health and safety COVID-19 protocols were leading scorer LaMelo Ball, starting guard Terry Rozier, center Mason Plumlee and forward Jalen McDaniels. They'll be sidelined for at least 10 days.

## Wizards 102, Raptors 90

In Toronto, Pascal Siakam scored 31 points, Precious Achiuwa had 10 points and 14 rebounds, and Toronto beat Washington on Sunday night.

Chris Boucher scored 14 points, Scottie Barnes had 11, and Fred VanVleet 10 to help the Raptors win back-to-back games for the first time since a five-game winning streak from Oct. 27 to Nov. 3.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored a season-high 26 points and Bradley Beal had 14 for the Wizards, who couldn't dig out of a hole after shooting poorly in the first quarter.

## Rockets 118, Pelicans 108

In Houston, Eric Gordon and Christian Wood both scored 23 points, and Houston beat New Orleans for its sixth straight win.

Brandon Ingram scored a season-high 40 points for the Pelicans, which was his most since dropping 40 against Brooklyn on Nov. 4, 2019. Jonas Valanciunas finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans.

Houston's Daniel Theis netted 12 points on 4 of 6 shooting from the field, and Alperen Sengun finished with 10 points.

## Blazers executive Neil Olshey dismissed after probe

**PORTLAND, Ore.** (AP)—The Portland Trail Blazers fired Neil Olshey, the team's president of basketball operations and general manager, on Friday after an investigation into workplace conduct.

The Blazers promoted director of player personnel Joe Cronin to interim GM.

The team said in a statement that Olshey was dismissed for violating its code of conduct. The Blazers had hired an outside firm last month to investigate workplace environment concerns stemming from allegations of misconduct involving Olshey.

The dismissal is effective immediately.

"Out of respect for those who candidly participated in that privileged investigation, we will not release or discuss it. We are confident that these changes will help build a more positive and respectful working environment," the Blazers said in a statement.

Olshey, 56, had been gen-



Portland Trail Blazers general manager Neil Olshey speaks during an NBA basketball news conference on Aug. 8, 2012, in Portland, Ore. AP

eral manager of the Blazers since 2012. He was promoted to president of basketball operations in 2015.

Olshey came to the Blazers after nine years with the Los Angeles Clippers, which included stints as director of

player development, assistant coach, director of player personnel and assistant GM.

The move comes amid significant turnover within the Blazers.

Trail Blazers president and CEO Chris McGowan

stepped down last month after nine years in the position. Chief Commercial Officer and Executive Vice President Dewayne Hankins took over as the team's new president of business operations.

Portland parted ways with

longtime coach Terry Stotts at the end of last season and hired Chauncey Billups as his replacement. The move came amid questions about how the Blazers selected Billups over more experienced candidates and concerns about sexual assault allegations lodged against him nearly a quarter-century ago.

Billups never faced charges related to those allegations that came out in 1997 and settled out of court with the accuser three years later.

Billups, a five-time NBA All-Star over a 17-year playing career, had never been a head coach before coming to the Blazers. He served as an assistant with the Clippers last season.

Portland is 11-12 so far under Billups. The Blazers are coming off a 114-83 loss to the San Antonio Spurs on Thursday night.

Under Olshey, the Trail Blazers have made the NBA playoffs for the past eight seasons, the longest active streak in the league. The team's best finish came in 2018-19, when

Portland went to the Western Conference finals for the first time since 2000. But the team hasn't advanced out of the first round in four of the last five years.

Less than a month after hiring Olshey, the Blazers selected Damian Lillard with the sixth overall pick in the NBA draft and built the franchise around him.

Lillard, a six-time All-Star, won Rookie of the Year honors in his first season. Last season, he averaged 30 points and eight assists.

Portland's investigation into workplace environment, announced on Nov. 6, was conducted by the law firm O'Melveny & Myers.

"The Portland Trail Blazers are committed to building an organization that positively impacts our colleagues, communities and the world in which we live and play," the team said in its statement.

Cronin is in his 15th season with the Blazers. He became director of player personnel in 2014 and manages the team's salary cap.



# Even if games go on, MLB lockout could alienate Gen Z



**N E W Y O R K** (AP)—Max Scherzer stars in the last video posted to Major League Baseball’s TikTok account before the league locked out the players Thursday morning.

The clip, viewed over 400,000 times, shows the final out from Scherzer’s first no-hitter in 2015 with Washington, followed by teammates dousing the three-time Cy Young Award winner with

chocolate syrup. Hip-hop duo Rae Sremmurd’s “Swang” plays in the background.

“Max Scherzer is ... officially a New York Met!!!” the caption reads, celebrating Scherzer’s \$130 million deal to pitch in Queens.

It could be the last post featuring a big league player sent to the account’s 4.8 million followers for months, a curveball with real consequences for a sport already concerned about courting young fans.

Even if baseball’s first work stoppage in 26 years doesn’t result in missed games, the league and its players are at risk of alienating their next wave of fans. Gen Z—loosely defined as those born between 1995 and 2010—has never experienced a baseball lockout or strike. Fan sentiment in previous stoppages was driven primarily by interruptions to the schedule, but for a generation that devours bite-sized entertainment faster than its predecessors, there’s potential for lasting damage even if the 2022 regular season starts on time.

For Gen Z, it’s all about the content. Suddenly, on social media, MLB doesn’t have any featuring stars like Shohei Ohtani or Fernando Tatis Jr.

“This content machine that is kind of going on all cylinders ... that all probably either stops completely or is not any-



San Francisco Giants’ Brandon Crawford, bottom, signs autographs for fans before Game 2 of a baseball National League Division Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Oct. 9, 2021, in San Francisco. AP

where near as active as it was,” said Mark Beal, an expert on Gen Z and an assistant professor in the Rutgers University School of Communication.

For Gen Z, he says, it’s “out of sight, out of mind.”

Raised in an age of ever-present and seemingly boundless options for entertainment, Gen Z has alarmed the sports industry as a whole and baseball in particular with its waning interest. In a survey by Morning Consult published in September of 2020, just 53% of Gen Z respondents claimed to be at least casual sports

fans, behind 69% of Millennials, 66% from Gen X and 61% of Boomers.

Only 32% of Gen Z respondents said they were at least a casual fan of MLB—trailing the NFL (49%), the NBA (47%) and esports (35%), among others.

The league has been proactively wooing the demographic since restructuring its marketing department in 2018—the “Let The Kids Play” campaign came months later. The situation isn’t all dire, either. Youth participation in baseball and softball

has risen in the past decade, compared to drops for football and soccer.

But this year in particular, MLB made significant gains reaching young fans in the most likely place to find them—TikTok. The league upped its engagement there this summer with a contest to hire help running the official MLB account, and its inaugural 11-member Creator Class was unveiled in September.

The league’s follower count has grown 65.5% to 4.8 million since the contest was announced. Beal, who made

the keynote address at last year’s Major League Baseball Speaker Series, called it a “best-in-sports” engagement tactic for the year.

Now, though, it’s unclear what the league can send to those many followers.

To avoid running afoul of federal labor laws during the lockout, MLB has scrubbed images and video highlights of current players from its website. Its old social media posts remain—Mookie Betts making a diving catch, a mic’d up Juan Soto asking Vladimir Guerrero Jr. for an invite to his next house party—but the league won’t be posting new content featuring players until the lockout ends.

“There’s great momentum there that is building, building, building, and building fandom, too,” Beal said. “If that all of a sudden slows down significantly or comes to almost a halt, then I think the Gen Z eyeballs kind of start tuning into, ‘Well what else is out there?’”

Once they wander off—and the algorithms on TikTok, Instagram and other platforms notice—it may not be so simple to get them back.

“I don’t think it’s as easy as flicking an on/off switch,” Beal said. “I think it’s going to take some time to kind of get the audience to shift their content preferences from what they’ve been tuned into since Dec. 1.”

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	16	7	.696	—
Boston	13	11	.542	3½
Philadelphia	12	11	.522	4
New York	11	12	.478	5
Toronto	11	13	.458	5½

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	14	10	.583	—
Washington	14	10	.583	—
Charlotte	14	11	.560	½
Atlanta	12	12	.500	2
Orlando	5	19	.208	9

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	16	8	.667	—
Milwaukee	15	9	.625	1
Cleveland	13	11	.542	3
Indiana	9	16	.360	7½
Detroit	4	18	.182	11

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	13	10	.565	—
Dallas	11	11	.500	1½
San Antonio	8	13	.381	4
Houston	7	16	.304	6
New Orleans	7	19	.269	7½

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	16	7	.696	—
Denver	11	11	.500	4½
Minnesota	11	12	.478	5
Portland	11	13	.458	5½
Oklahoma City	6	16	.273	9½

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	19	4	.826	—
Phoenix	19	4	.826	—
L.A. Clippers	12	12	.500	7½
L.A. Lakers	12	12	.500	7½
Sacramento	10	14	.417	9½

### NFL STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	4	0	.667	336	190
Buffalo	7	4	0	.636	326	182
Miami	6	7	0	.462	254	288
N.Y. Jets	3	9	0	.250	217	367

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	8	4	0	.667	304	290
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538	371	283
Houston	2	10	0	.167	164	323
Jacksonville	2	10	0	.167	180	320

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	282	260
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	331	267
Pittsburgh	6	5	1	.542	244	286
Cleveland	6	6	0	.500	254	267

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	8	4	0	.667	303	259
L.A. Chargers	7	5	0	.583	314	315
Denver	6	6	0	.500	237	218
Las Vegas	6	6	0	.500	274	312

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	8	4	0	.667	353	267
Washington	6	6	0	.500	246	297
Philadelphia	6	7	0	.462	337	291
N.Y. Giants	4	8	0	.333	211	273

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	9	3	0	.750	377	270
Atlanta	5	7	0	.417	216	332
Carolina	5	7	0	.417	236	253
New Orleans	5	7	0	.417	274	276

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	3	0	.750	283	242
Minnesota	5	7	0	.417	308	305
Chicago	4	8	0	.333	201	287
Detroit	1	10	1	.125	203	316

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	10	2	0	.833	343	224
L.A. Rams	8	4	0	.667	336	270
San Francisco	6	6	0	.500	303	278
Seattle	4	8	0	.333	239	249

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## BORJA

From Page 20

Guzman in the title match, 21-12, 21-12. The eventual champions booked a finals berth after topping Vince Satur and Gian Punzalan, 21-19, 22-20. Satur and Punzalan, on the other hand, beat Ian Lubao and Angel Joyce

## VELASCO

From Page 20

during the race were pretty bad because of the weather.

“It rained before the race so the road was very wet and very dangerous. It was especially more dangerous in the downhill rides. In fact, a lot of riders slipped. Fortunately there were no serious accidents,” he said.

The 28-year-old Commonwealth Health Center dialysis technician said because of work and babysitting, his training has been confined to indoor rides in his stationary bike lately.

## TASA

From Page 20

ties, especially the four Tinian players currently trying out for the CNMI National Baseball Team for next year’s Pacific Mini Games.

He said Justin Sablan, Pe-

Reyes, 22-20, 21-6, to take the semis berth at the top half of the draw.

At the bottom half of the draw, Brian Lubao and Quintos outclassed Pablo and Julie Anne Chavez, 21-16, 21-11, to earn the right to face Quidato and De Guzman in the semis. Quidato and De Guzman then needed three games

“I’ve been only able to ride one to two times a month. It feels really different training indoors compared to outdoors especially going uphill. I was surprised that I had a hard time in my first climb so I just tried to hang on to the lead group then in the last kilometer I managed to breakaway and fortunately won,” the Taytay, Philippines native said.

Velasco said winning the 5th Annual Bike Race was actually the farthest in his mind since multi-titled veteran rider Joel Buco also took part in the competition. “I think I just got lucky!”

ter Cepeda, Bradley Lizama, and Bing Sablan were given leave by the Saipan Baseball League to return to their families for Thanksgiving, but due to unavailability of flights back to Saipan have been stuck on Tinian for more than a week. Good thing though

to oust Lubao and Quintos, 21-19, 21-23. 21-15, and set up a finals duel against Borja and Itaas.

After falling short in her bid for the mixed doubles title, Quintos went on to clinch the women’s doubles U19 crown after she and Itaas eased past Chavez and De Guzman, 21-8, 21-9. Earlier in the semis,

Like the men’s champion, Braxton also had a photo-finish victory over Jay Anne Felipe in the long course of the road bike women’s division after timing in at 1:17:13. Felipe came in second in 1:17:18 followed by Heather Brook in 1:19:34.

Braxton said her win in the Saipan Unity Lions Club race was a fitting advance birthday gift for herself.

“I was super happy that day! This was my last race at being 42 years old and I won first place on my bike race. I knew I was going to win,” she said.

Braxton said road condi-

that rain cancelled all practice sessions last week.

“They came back and practice was canceled due to rain. According to SBL president Jay Santos practice will resume on Dec. 6 as scheduled. Star Marianas cancelling flights did effect their sched-

Quintos and Itaas had a walk-over win against the injured Kaithly Chavez and teammate Mikayla Cunanan, while Julie Anne Chavez and De Guzman defeated Punzalan and Reyes in the other Final Four pairing, 21-10, 21-19.

Meanwhile, Quintos ended up with her second division title after reigning supreme

tions were far from ideal as she seconded Velasco’s observation that rain before the race made racing conditions quite perilous.

“The road was wet due to rain, so downhill everyone went slowly...I want to dedicate the win to everyone,” she said.

In the short course category of the road bike that encompassed the Banzai/Mobil/Banzai route, Teddy Calma triumphed among the men with a time of 1:01:03 followed by Jaypee Pangilinan and Rick Bauer with times of 1:04:00 and 1:09:56, respectively.

The women’s short course

in the women’s U19 singles. Quintos won over De Guzman in the semis, 21-15, 21-8, and then outclassed Punzalan in the finals, 21-14, 21-18. Punzalan advanced to the finals following a 21-14, 21-18 triumph over Julie Ann Chavez, who marched into the semis after slipping past Reyes, 21-11, 21-23, 21-11.

of the road bike course, Vernice Estepa topped all comers after crossing the finish line in 1:04:45. Zayra Ganacias and Rowena Houck finished second and third with times of 1:05:07 and 1:08:17, respectively.

Results of the mountain bike race will be published in tomorrow’s issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

Proceeds from the SULC 5th Annual Bike Race fundraiser will be used for various year-long programs that are in line with the club’s service goals as well as other humanitarian services as the needs arise.

the inconvenience sports is experiencing.

“I am dumbfounded that none of Tinian leadership have come to talk about the Commonwealth Ports Authority/Star Marianas issue. This a major setback for our people on Tinian,” he said.





**Lions win on final play, end winless string 29-27 over Vikes** **PAGE 17**

# Saipan Tribune Sports



**Even if games go on, MLB lockout could alienate Gen Z** **PAGE 19**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Borja, Quintos stand out in U19

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**T**aka Borja and Sophia Quintos excelled in the U19 division of the NMI Badminton National Championships 2021 that concluded over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

**NMBA** Borja brought home three championships, while Quintos earned a pair, showcasing their much-improved skills since joining the junior developmental pool this year.

In the men's U19 singles play, Borja did not drop a single game en route to ruling the eight-player field. The No. 1 seed defeated doubles teammate Daniel Pablo in the opening round match last Friday, 21-19, 21-15, and then swept Vince Satur in the next game, 21-14, 21-15, to reach the finals. Satur moved to the semis following a 21-17, 21-13 triumph over Joe Antonio before missing the finals berth at the top of the draw when he bowed to Borja, who capped



Taka Borja, left, and Sophia Quintos, play in separate matches in the U19 division of the NMI Badminton National Championships 2021 last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

his domination in the division with a 21-14, 21-12 victory against Paulo Quidato in the title game.

The No. 2 seed Quidato made it to the finals following a 21-14, 21-12 win over Ian Lubao, who reached the semis after eliminating Marlon Bau-

tista, 21-12, 21-13. Quidato before beating Lubao downed Kyle Salcedo, 21-11, 21-7.

Quidato and Borja met anew in the finals—this time in the men's doubles with the latter teaming up with Pablo and the former joining forces with Ian Lubao. Borja and



Pablo pulled off a 21-17, 19-21, 21-18 win over Antonio and Brian Lubao in the semis before sweeping Ian Lubao and Quidato in the finals, 21-14, 21-15. Ian Lubao and Quidato marched into the finals following a 21-12, 21-14 victory against Bautista and Sa-

tur, who advanced to the semis after a 21-12, 11-21, 21-11 triumph versus the duo of Mark Chavez and Salcedo.

For his third finals appearance, Borja partnered with Khristelle Itaas and they defeated Quidato and Kiesha De

**See BORJA on Page 19**

## TASA cancels all sports competitions

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Following the first cases of COVID-19 on Tinian, the Tinian Amateur Sports Association cancelled all competitions under its purview.

"We have canceled all events—tee ball/baseball, softball, and volleyball—under TASA until further notice," said TASA president Jose Kiyoshi.

Aside from the cancellation of ongoing leagues under the Tinian Softball Association, Tinian Volleyball Association, and Tinian Baseball Association, Tinian Basketball Association earlier postponed its championship game in the Island-wide Men's Bud Light Basketball League.

Kiyoshi said it was unfortunate but they have



Kiyoshi

to follow the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s directives to control the surge of the coronavirus.

"There's always going to be a positive and negative attitude. Let's just be safe, get your COVID-19 vaccine shots, follow the 3 W's, and if you don't need to be out and about please stay home. Especially the man'amko," he said.

TABA was supposed to hold its do-or-die championship game last Friday, Dec. 3, between Team Kio and Rampage at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium. It was to be preceded by the third place game between Team CNMI and Devil Dog Warriors. Now, both games have been put off to a still undetermined later date.

In related news, Kiyoshi said Star Marianas Inc.'s decision to stop inter-island flights between Tinian and Saipan will also have a profound impact on the island's sports activi-

**See TASA on Page 19**

## Velasco, Braxton roar to the finish line

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**SAIPAN UNITY LIONS CLUB** Arvin Velasco and Ayano Braxton emerged the king and queen of the road in Saipan Unity Lions Club's 5th Annual Bike Race held last Nov. 28.

Velasco topped the men's division of the road bike category after negotiating the Banzai/Mobil/1-Million Gallon Water Tank Turnaround/Suicide Cliff/Bird Island/Banza route in 1:07:54.

Mark Isip came in a few ticks after Velasco crossed the finish line in 1:07:58, while Ren Ren Gaviola completed the Top 3 in basically the same time as Isip.

Velasco said road conditions **See VELASCO on Page 19**



Ayano Braxton in action during the road bike long course division of Saipan Unity Lions Club's 5th Annual Bike Race held last Nov. 28.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Arvin Velasco (54) lines up at the starting line of the road bike long course division of Saipan Unity Lions Club's 5th Annual Bike Race held last Nov. 28.

LAO ZHANG